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Summit to crack down on abusers

Minister cites campaign by The Independent

REBECCA FOWLER

A Cabinet Minister has called for co-ordinated national action by the Government as part of a drive to stamp out sexual and physical abuse in children's

William Hague, the Secretary of State for Wales, says in a lefter sent to the Prime Minister and other Cabinet colleagues. which has been leaked to the Independent: "Whenever abuse of children in public care occurs it naturally gives rise to a strong public reaction. As a government we need to be seen to be responding to this appropri-

Mr Hague is strongly critical of Clwyd County Council for its handling of the child abuse scandal in north Wales in the 1980s, one of the worst seen in Britain, but he adds: "The issue has ceased to be one simply af-

fecting Wales. "There is talk of a cover-up and this is leading to renewed calls for a public inquiry. As you may have seen, the Independent newspaper is running a sustained campaign.

As many as 200 children were abused in homes in North Wales, and seven care workers have been convicted of serious crimes. In recent years, 12 former residents have committed suicide in circumstances related to their experiences.

In the letter, Mr Hague expresses concern over mounting fears that not all the perpetrators of abuses in Clwyd had been put on trial, intensified by the failure of the councils to publish the findings of the in-quiry led by John Jillings, former director of social services

ify to teach

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through

to time still

Mr Hague writes: There re-

in North Wales that, thorough as the police investigations appear to have been, by no means all the people responsible for the abuse were successfully

brought to justice." He attributes the "mishandling" of the Clwyd inquiry -and the failure to publish the Jillings report - to the County Council, which was caught in a stranglehold by its insurance company. The Municipal Mutual insisted the publication of the investigation would be a "dress rehearsal" for claimants pursuing legal action against the local authority, following their traumatic experiences in homes.

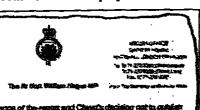
Among the issues Mr Hague highlights is "the extent to which the likely loss of insurance cover and the risk of surcharge should oblige local authorities in these circumstances to heed their insurers' wishes."

Despite a series of scandals involving children's homes across Britain, the Government has consistently failed to respond to recommendations for change, including setting up a paedophile register, improved training for workers and better inspection of homes - and a general council to oversee the

Mr Hague says in the letter, also sent to the Lord Chancellor and Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, that Whitehall officials from all the relevant departments should meet urgently to discuss the issues, including more ef-

fective vetting and safeguards. Mr Hague has ordered the councils in Wales who have taken over from the now defunct Clwyd to edit the report to ensure that it can be published without fear of libel or repercussions from the insurance company.

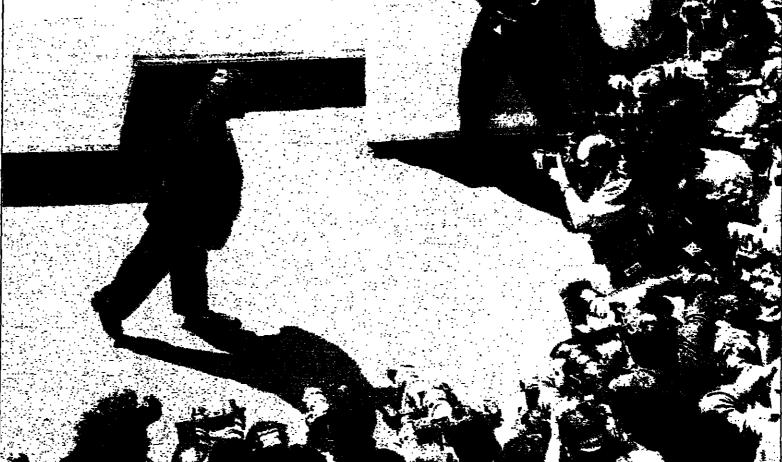
mains a strong feeling of unease



the face of public acquiry. As you may have speed the

Cause for concern: Mr Hague's letter to Cabinet colleagues

Dustin Hoffman blames Hollywood over Dunblane



Oscar winner Dustin Hoffman yesterday chose the Cannes Film Festival to attack cinema's falling standards on movie violence.

The actor, whose career has spanned more than 30 years, said that in Hollywood today commerce is "mixed with vio lence" in a way that he had never seen before.

And referring to the recent mass murders in Dunblane, Scotland, and in Tasmania, Hoffman said: "Look at this global community we live in and what happens in Tasmania and what happens in Scotland. Are you saying it (film violence) doesn't

have anything to do with it?
"Do I feel that it contributes?

Absolutely. I feel it all contributes. I had a discussion with a' friend of mine the other night. I don't know whether you have heard about this in Europe but there were two kids, six and eight years old, who attacked a baby in Chicago.

"Our feeling about it was that this was kind of normal behaviour and that the human being is at best the lowest of savages We are born savages and if you have little kids like I do you have to tell them 'What are you doing? You can't put your fingers. in your brother's eyes like that, how would you like someone to do it to you?'

"But now there is a total absence of that kind of training

fect. If those kids are seeing viseeing an older person doing level of violence in films. that kind of thing they are go-

ing to do the same thing. Hoffman, the star of numerous films including the violent Straw Dogs and Marathon Man, said he rejected scripts that featured gratuitous violence. "It personally affects my own

decisions. I look at a script and if it has what I think is gratuitous violence I won't do it. I haven't taken any steroids lately so it's not a difficult decision to make.

The actor, who won his two Oscars for Kramer v Kramer and Rain Man, said that he attend-

and the opposite is even in ef- ed a Hollywood fundraising dinner a year ago when Presiolence in front of them or dent Bill Clinton criticised the

> "All of us so-called heavyweights were there, the stars, the directors and the studio heads. We all stood around watching Clinton and I thought he was quite brave because he came into Hollywood and he was saying cut down on the

> "He said: 'You know when I see violence, or when you see violence or your kids see violence, they have mothers and they have fathers and you have three things; you have work, you have family and a certain fi

"But he said that there were

many people, and kids who are impressionable, who don't have any of the above and he said they are being affected differ-ently by that kind of stuff on the screen. He said to you guys it s just entertainment but I think it's hitting another level to a lot of those other kids."

"I could see everybody applauding but I knew it was going to be business as usual as soon as Clinton had gone and everyone was going to go right back and make the same kind of movies.

"lt's part of the whole thing. Commerce is mixed with violence now in a way that I am unaware of in my lifetime."

at 63



The Eurovision Song Contest: it's no joke for Norway

Magazine Charles Nevin takes on the man who has never lost an argument

Simon Hopkinson on seriously underrated English dressings

World's cupboards bare as crop fails

NICHOLAS SCHOON

Unnoticed by Western consumers, the world is passing through its worst period of grain scarcity since the early 1970s. Prices of internationally-traded wheat have doubled in one year, grain mountains have vanished and stocks are low.

Hopes that the world food crisis might ease were dashed yesterday after the US announced that America's winterwheat harvest this summer would be the worst in almost two decades.

Yesterday's official forecast of the lowest US harvest in 18 years means the risk of worsening hunger, hardship and turnoil in grain-importing poor countries will stay high for at least another year.

The harvest, which begins in Texas this month, is the largest of any region in the world. The US is also the world's biggest wheat exporter and wintersown varieties account for 60 per cent of the crop.

Drought last autumn, late frosts and high winds meant an even more disappointing crop than last year's poor one, said the Department of Agricul-ture. As stocks dwindled, the main index price of US wheat has doubled over the past year, rising to a peak of £195 a tonne at the end of last month.

'After this disappointing har-

vest they're not likely to come down," said Richard Woodham, of the London-based International Grains Council. Powerful trends have combined to slash the vast grain

from developed countries, chiefly the US, Canada, the European Union and Australia, after years of crop surpluses...

Cash support to farmers has been cut to curb the grain mountains, because of the high cost to taxpayers and consumers. But developing countries, especially China, have needed to import more, because of population growth and pros-perity. A succession of poor harvests was the final factor in turning abundance into scarcity.
There are 82 poor nations.

half of them in Africa, which import more food than they export. High prices, which flow from the bad US harvest, will hit them hard. Spectre of drought, page 8

Heads plan tests boycott

Education Editor

Head teachers are threatening to block the publication of primary school league tables by refusing to release nationaltest results for 11-year-olds.

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) is expected to announce next week that it is advising heads to withhold test results.

Their action will alarm ministers who faced a storm two years ago when teacher unions boycotted national tests. By law, heads are obliged to send test papers to external markers who are under contract to send the results to the Government. Governments are required also by law to submit results and heads have a legal duty to make

results available to governors. Heads say tables will be misleading because they do not take account of pupils' social back-grounds, or differing abilities.

They are angry that Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, who said originally that primary league tables would not be published until the tests had bedded down, changed her mind earlier this year. The results of this year's 11-year-old tests which begin on Monday will be published next March,

A spokesman for the De-partment of Education and Employment said secondaryschool performance tables were by parents, and the time was right for parents to compare primary schools' performance

IN BRIEF

Bupa pulls out Bupa, Britain's biggest health in-surer, with 550,000 subscribers, has decided not to use private beds in NHS hospitals. Page 3

Today's weather Bright after a loggy start, with a scattering of showers. Page 2



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Scottish Tories conference: Prime Minister targets devolution plans as key election issue

Major to warn Labour will tear-up Britain

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

John Major is planning to give Conservatives a rallying call to preserve the Union today with a warning that Labour's plans for a Scottish Parliament threaten to "tear apart" Britain.

The Prime Minister's campaigning speech to the Scottish Conservative Party conference in Aberdeen will make constitutional commitment to Scotland a cornerstone of the Tory General Election campaign. Mr Major is expected to claim Labour's devolution plans will endanger the fabric of Britain, and - coupled with Labour's pro-European stance - damage Britain at home and abroad.

The Prime Minister will seek to draw the line under the Tory losses in the local elections, and turn the Conservative fire on Labour over tax, which was looking increasingly vital for the
Tories after Kenneth Clarke

He will hold out the prospect
of the return of the "feelgood" damped down hopes of a preelection tax giveaway in the next low interest rates being put at tion," Sir David warned.

Malcolm Riffond, the Foreign

Secretary, yesterday threw out

a referendum deal being bro-

kered by John Redwood and Sir

James Goldsmith to make

Goldsmith to withdraw his

threat to put up independent

candidates against Tories at the

The uncompromising rejec-

Conservative Party

tion by Mr Rifkind at the Scot-

conference in Aberdeen makes

it highly unlikely that Mr Red-

wood will be able to reach any

deal between the Government

and Sir James, the leader of the

Referendum Party. It increas-

es the threat that Euro-sceptic

candidates could be put up

against Conservatives, helping

Labour in key Tory marginals.

conference: "Let me make one thing clear on tax. Restoring our reputation for competence and regaining the trust of the British people does not involve buying votes through tax cuts that will not last. I have too high a regard for the British people to try and bribe them with tax cuts we can't

Mr Clarke refused to rule out tax cuts, but a rise in borrowing and a £6bn gap in expected VAT receipts has made his room for manoeuvre much smaller.

Instead, Mr Major is planning es, including the "Tartan tax" for the Scottish Parliament, and the 'teenage tax", equivalent to £560 a year, if the Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, scraps child benefit for 16-18year-olds as part of Labour's welfare reforms

factor" with low inflation and

Redwood referendum

bid rejected by Rifkind

Its rejection will disappoint

Tory Euro-sceptic MPs, who

support the call for a fresh ref-

erendum on Europe. Bill Cash,

the leading Euro-sceptic cam-

paigner, will force a vote in June

in the Commons on a referen-

dum on Britain's membership

of the EU. Mr Redwood pro-

posed a compromise referen-

dum, on whether Britain should

be part of a looser single mar-

Mr Rifkind said: "I don't be-

lieve there is any possibility of

further referendums on Euro-

pean issues. The single curren-

ter steering a careful line over

the European ban on British

beef which showed a clear dif-

Mr Rifkind was speaking af-

cy was a specific question."

Budget. The Chancellor told the risk by a Labour Government In a foretaste of the Tory elec-tion strategy, Mr Major will tell wavering supporters Labour would "throw it all away". That message will be seen as an attempt to neutralise the power of Labour's appeal that it is time for a change".

The commitment to the Union was reinforced by Cabinet ministers at the Scottish conference, led by Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman. Claiming the Conservatives would be the only party with candidates wedded to mainto focus his conference attack taining the Union, Dr Mawhin-on the threat of Labour tax ris-oney said: "We are a Unionist party by conviction.

However, Sir David Steel, the former Liberal Democrat leader, last night warned Mr Major he was making a fatal mistake in opposing more devolved powers for Scotland. "It is they who are risking the Union. Without a Scottish Parliament, more people out of frustration may opt for separa-

ference of approach to Europe

the Euro-sceptic Scottish Sec-

stepped questions about Mr

Forsyth's view, that the ban

was part of a cynical exercise to

destroy competition by Britain.

He told the conference that the

recommendation of EU vets for

"We look to our European

partners to accept that recom-

mendation," he said. "I have to

say to our European partners

that the strategy pursued by

them has not worked in that

they hoped that by banning

British beef their own industry

retary Michael Forsyth.

in the right direction'.

would be OK."



Peter Lilley, who yesterday claimed the Tories were the true party of the working class

An attempt to win back the support of "Essex Man" was made yesterday by Peter Lilley, the between Michael Heseltine and Secretary of State for Social Security, with a claim that the Conservatives were the true party of The Foreign Secretary sidethe working class.

Dismissing Labour's claims that the Tories were only a middle-class party. Mr Lilley told the Scottish Conservative Party conference in Aberdeen that the party's appeal went far the partial lifting of the ban on

Conservatives are the party of the hard-working classes. We don't care if they have blue col-lars or blue blood," he said.

The home of "Essex Man" -Basildon - fell to Labour in last week's local elections, underlying the extent to which the model. Now with the Japanese Tories have lost the traditional

vatives who put Margaret Thatcher in power.

'Mr Lilley's remarks were

seen as a signal that the party's right wing, to which Mr Lilley belongs, will be pushing for a more strident appeal to win back the working class Topy supporters in the run-up to the general election.

The Secretary of State became the third Cabinet minister in two days to claim that plans by Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, to scrap child benefit for 16 to 18-yearwould amount to a "teenage tax" costing families £560 a year.

Ridiculing Labour's search for a solution to rising welfare spending, he said: "First they flirted with the Signapore model. Then with the Australian a monopoly on cellulite?" model. They have dallied with

support of blue collar Conser- more seductive models than

Andrew Neil (former editor of the Sunday Times). And their commitment lasts as long."

. The search for a populist manifesto for the Conservative Party was highlighted in a question and answer session. Phil Gallie, the Tory MP for Ayri won majority support in a straw poll of Tory representatives for a manifesto commitment to bring back the death penalty.

There was also strong support for silencing the Duchess of York and the Princess of Wales. Annabel Goldie, the deputy Party, called for a prohibition on "estranged and divorced royal spouses appearing daily in the newspapers and selling their stories to Hello magazine. What makes them think they have got

Blair blames

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

Tony Blair yesterday launched what is likely to be one of his party's most dominant themes between now and the election - that the Tories have created an "insecure majority" for which he claimed Labour was

Tories

the new champion.

Mr Blair used his speech to the Welsh Labour conference to condemn the Conservatives in the wake of the Westminster "homes for votes" scandal as a "degenerate party that loves lec-turing the people about right and wrong but has long since ceased to know the difference between right and wrong itself."

But his speech was heavily injected with references to what private polling suggests is one of the lasting reasons for the Tories failure - so far - to stage a political recovery: "job insecurity and fear". It came as Paddy Ashdown, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, also combined a scathing attack on the Tories over Westminster council as "the final nail in the coffin of Tory probity" with a prediction that the next general election would be "a battle about trust".

This included "fear, fuelled by government legislation, that if you lose your job you also lose your home. Fear about crime. Fear that the NHS cannot cope and that any one of us, any one of our children or our parents could be the victim. Fear of poverty in old age".

Mr Blair said the electoral

battlefield had once been portraved as "Labour for the poor and disadvantaged against the tories as the party of the secure and comfortable majority." But, he added: "It has

changed. It is Labour that now speaks up for the insecure maiority, and puts forward the policies that meet their con-

Mr Ashdown, while declaring that the Conservatives had "completely lost the trust of the people", warned that "the problem for Labour is that they are so frightened of their shadow ... that's why people don't trust Labour because they don't know whether the modern Labour Party is a Trojan horse or an empty vessel."

hunt for gunman Murder squad detectives are hunting a 31-year-old man who fled after allegedly threatening them with a shotgun. South Wales police said David Alfred

Willoway may be armed. They were investigating the murder of Helen Martin, 18, where battered body was found at the Symond's Yat beauty spot in Herefordshire on Wednesda, four days after she

was last seen at a Maesteg pub. Detectives who watched a security video showing Helen leave the pub disco said yesterday they had traced a 30-year-old local man who dropped her near her home.

Rover cars recalled

Rover is recalling more than 20,000 cars with a steering problem. Some M and N-registration Rover 600s have suffered loose mounting bolts on the steering rack. Rover has written to all affected owners asking them to contact their dealer to have free checks done.

Blaze death charge

A security guard was sent for trial accused of killing firefighter Fleur Lombard, 21, who died in a supermarket blaze in Bristol in February. Martin Cody, 20, made no plea at the city's Crown Court to charges of manslaughter and arson with intent to endanger life. Ms Lomhard was Britain's first woman firefighter to die on duty.

Coach crashes

Nine children were taken to hospital after their coach was involved in a head-on collision with a van in Salford, Manchester. The driver of one of the vehicles was trapped for more than an hour before being freed by firefighters. He was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

don't like Fridays

The showbusiness couple Bob Geldof and Paula Yates have divorced. Mr Geldof, 41, was given an honorary knighthood or setting up the charity Band Aid. Ms Yates, 35, is a television presenter and newspaper columnist. They married in 1986 and have three children -Fifi Trixibelle, 12, Peaches, 6, and four-year-old Pixie.

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concise crossword



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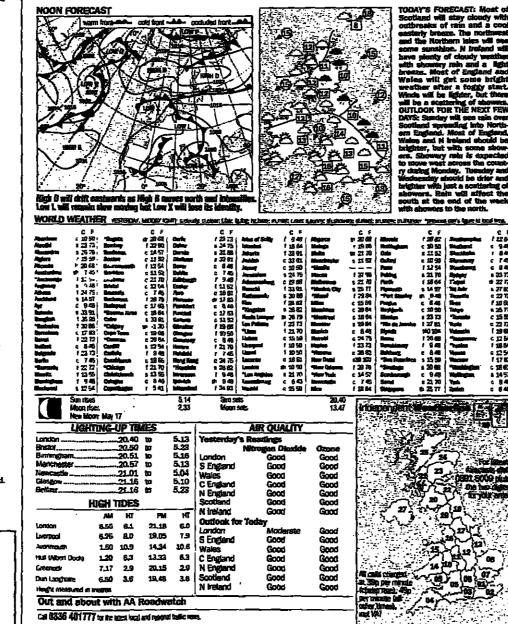
10 Name of several English kings (6) 12 Failed to hit (6) 14 Sweet cold drink (3-5,4) 18 Region (4) 19 Foretells (8) 20 Pub (5)

Longed (7) Narrow mid-section (5) Sports ground (5) Uneasy (7) Sailing ves 6 Bomb (6) 11 Old (7) 12 Person belonging to society (6) 13 Flexible (7) 15 Pink colour (5)

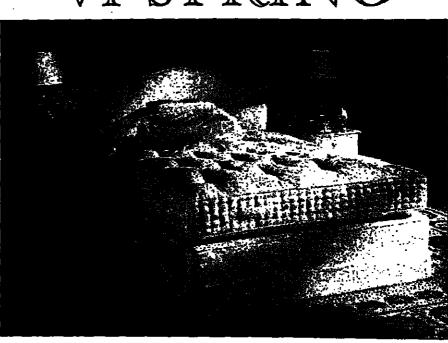
16 Throw out (5)

Across I Sane, 4 Title (Saint Hilda), 9 Nehru, 10 Lecters, 11 Earnings, 12 Will, 13 Sabre-rathing, 17 Pale, 18 Thriller, 21 Orthogo, 22 India, 23 Lodge, 24 Yank, Down: 2 Abhor, 3 Erudiue, 4 Telegraph tode, 5 Luck, 6 Emerit, 7 Unless, 8 Kmit, 14 Balliol, 15 Thrilly, 16 German, 17 Prod, 19 Laden, 20 Good

Weather forecast



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Loss of Bupa patients 'will mean NHS cuts'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS, Public Policy Editor

A move by Bupa, Britain's biggest health insurer, to encourage its 550,000 personal subscribers to switch to private hospitals rather than NHS paybeds could have a devastating impact on NHS treatment, health service chiefs warned yes-

The switch could lead to the collapse of the NHS's £250m private patient income, Marco Cereste, chairman of the NHS Trust Federation claimed. That in turn would lead to cuts in NHS services as hospitals lost the profits from private patients and the efficiency gains from running pay-beds alongside NHS services.

The move was potentially "a NHS.

catastrophe" for the NHS, he said, adding: "We are not going to take this lying down." The Federation is consulting lawyers over whether Bupa's move is le-gal and will hold talks with PPP, Norwich Union and the other insurers to organise a fightback, Mr Cereste said.

Bupa accused the federation of "overreaction" - saying that only £16m of its pay-outs for personal subscribers went to

But Norwich Union, the third biggest health insurer, accused Bupa of reducing "choice and diversity" for its customers, adding that the move was aimed at protecting Bupa's own hospitals and those of the other private providers when they have losing business to the

The row follows last month's Bupa subscribers already used aunch of Bupa's new Health private rather than NHS units. launch of Bupa's new Health But where it was clinically nec-Fund which allows subscribers to build up credits which can sary and cleared with Bupa then be spent on other health beforehand, patients would still care products such as be able to use private NHS beds. long-term care or fitness clubs. In return, subscribers will he said.

The federation was "overre-acting", he added. Even if all its subscribers transferred to the normally be limited to a choice new fund, the NHS would lose a maximum of £16m of business. "I don't know where the £250m figure comes from."

Mr Cereste, however, said the loss of £16m could be enough to destabilise the rest of the trusts' private patient income. "As a result, the whole organi-sation could collapse, costing us £200m to £250m in lost income. If that revenue stops, fewity "hotel" facilities Bupa's er NHS patients will be subscribers expected. Most It is as simple as that." er NHS patients will be treated.



United hero to stay away from Cup

WILL BENNETT

As Manchester United's Premicr League heroes walk onto the turf at Wembley today, one of the club's greatest names from the past will not be there 10 watch them. Rather characteristically, the most likely place to find George Best will be in his local pub.

The last time Best - the mercurial Ulsterman whose raw ability thrilled a generation -went to Wembley, he was mobbed by enthusiastic fans and ended up watching the match in a nearby hotel room. It is an experience he does not want to re-

As United take on Liverpool today in an attempt to win the double, the Championship and the FA Cup, Mr Best will probably be watching in the pub in Chelsea, south-west London, where he is a familiar figure. He said: "It will be full of Chelsea fans so I can rub it in."

More than 400 Manchester United and Liverpool fans will not get to watch the match cither. When they turn up at Wembley today they will find that the tickets for which they have paid up to £500 each on the black market are stolen.

Paul Sergeant, director of Wembley Stadium, said: "Every FA Cup final ticket is recorded somewhere in the system. We know exactly which tickets were stolen and anyone coming in with one of those will definitely be stopped and probably arrested as well."

Bookmakers say that this year's final will attract record bets, and both teams are quoted at 13-8 to win in normal time, making it the closest final ever. ■ Trevor Phillips, a senior Football Association official who resigned as an investigation began into alleged illegal ticket sales for the Euro 96 football championships yesterday denied any wrongdoing. "I am sure that I have done nothing to be

ompetition rises in private wards

Growing competition between private hospitals and the NHS lies behind yesterday's furious dispute over Bupa's move to restrict its private subscribers to

using chiefly private hospitals. Since 1990, the NHS has reversed a historic decline in its share of the private patient market, with a rapid expansion in NHS private units seeing it take 16 per cent of the business last year against a mere 11 per cent five years ago. Next year, independent analysts predict, it may take 20 per cent, making the NHS the biggest single provider of private care.

The expansion has come at the expense of the big private hospital groups - including BUPA itself - with occupancy across all private hospitals running at only 50 to 60 per cent, industry analysts said yesterday.

Bupa has also launched a novel Health Fund, simed at restoring its declining share of



wards a wide range of other health products from critical illness cover to disability income.

The price is a more restricted choice of hospitals for private treatment - down to 150 private-only hospitals against the 800-or-so, including NHS Trusts, which provide at least some private patient facilities.

Bupa yesterday argued this represented little change as more than 80 per cent of its subscribers already use the private sector rather than NHS pay-

But Tim Baker, Norwich Union's commercial manager, accused Bupa - whose main board includes Sir Duncan Nichol, the former NHS chief executive - of reducing "choice and diversity" for its clients and of acting to protect its hosthe private insurance market. It pital interests from NHS com-

could not cope with a lot of the more complex work, he said. Pa-tients might have to travel from Norwich to London, for example, to find a private hospital.

of only 150 private hospitals.

including Bupa's own and those

of Nuffield and BMI with whom

the health insurer has cut

Bruce Tranter, Bupa's mar-

keting director, said it had gone

only for private hospitals in

part because there was "a ques-

tion mark" over whether NHS

nay-beds would continue under

a Labour government. In addition, they offered the high qual-

advantageous deals.

Norwich Union would continue to use NHS pay-beds, as "they are often more cost effective because they are able to share services with NHS hospitals. We want to encourage NHS pay-beds in order to encourage diversity and choice."

PPP, the second largest in-surer, also said: "We have no plans to exclude NHS pay beds from our cover. In many respects the NHS is the provider of choice for our customers and we have plans to build on that relationship in future."

Industry estimates varied over how serious the impact of Bupa's move would be on NHS services, some suggesting that the NHS Trust Federation was overstating it. Bupa itself said it would depend on how many offers those who switch to it petition. "There are big of its subscribers switched to its "credits" that can be used to-consumer disadvantages here," new scheme. Even if all 550,000

he said. Many private hospitals subscribers did so, only £16m at most of the NHS pay-bed business of approaching £250m would be affected, Bupa argued. But William Laing of the an-

alysts Laing and Buisson said that outside London a £16m loss "might well have a pretty devastating effect on a number of NHS pay-bed units."

Marco Cereste, the NHS Trust Federation chairman, said "we are not just going to allow this to happen." NHS pay-beds offered the better deal, he maintained. For Bupa to have a preferred provider arrangement which excludes the NHS is ridiculous when if something does go wrong in a private hospital the patient will end up in

the NHS anyway." Despite the sharp growth in NHS private patient activity, it makes up less than 1 per cent of most NHS Trusts income, although some 50 earn more than 2 per cent of their income from private patients.

Nicholas Timmins | Sitting pretty: Wembley being prepared for today's FA Cup final Photograph: Robert Hallam

Fourteen killed as air crash mars giant Allied exercise

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

The biggest joint British and US military exercise since the Gulf War was overshadowed by tragedy yesterday when two US Marine helicopters collided in darkness, killing 14 people and seriously injuring two. The CH46 Sea Knight transport helicopter and AH-1 Co-

bra attack helicopter collided over Courthouse Bay, five miles north of the beach where British and US Marines had begun landing at midnight.

flames at 2am, their wreckage landing in a marshy, wooded area, making identification difficult. No British personnel were involved.

'War game' proves point for

As the troops began landing

The aircraft crashed in point on Thursday a thousand aircraft were in the air.

Although the Sea Knight is approaching the end of its useful life, Pentagon sources said yesterday they did not think me-chanical failure was to blame.

- the climax of the exercise -

dozens of helicopters flew over-

head, showing red safety lights,

but more reliant than usual on

night vision equipment. At one

Leieune - were devastated by the news, but said they were carrying on with the exercise.
The Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, who landed with one of the waves of British troops at 8.30am yes-terday, said the British fleet was flying flags at half-mast out of

which is expected to take sev-

eral months

respect for the US casualties.
"It just goes to show that, even on an exercise, servicemen take risks," Mr Portillo said. "Of course they'll be a shadow, but none the less the exer-

cise will be of great value to save life in the future. Exercise "Purple Star" is the biggest British amphibious op-eration since the Falklands and the biggest joint US and British exercise of this type since the Al-lies' Normandy landings in

A total of 38,200 US personnel and 15,600 British are involved. The US Air Force is providing 171 aircraft, the RAF 56: the US Navy 26 ships and

the Royal Navy 27.
But most of the aircraft are from the US Marines' Second Marine Expeditionary Force which has 30 flying squadrons, totalling more than 400 aircraft. The main body of this force -40,000 Marines - is based at Camp Lejeune and the air component at two Marine Corps air stations, New River and Cherry Point. The helicopters involved in Friday morning's crash were from 266 Marine

New River. The US authorities declined to release the names of the dead until their families had been in-

Aviation Squadron based at



A JACK DANIEL'S RICKER KNOWS the difference between whiskeywood and firewood.

For the charcoal that mellows our Tennessee Whiskey, we'll only burn hard maple taken from high ground. Anything else is too soft and would just go to ash. (Jack Bateman here is weeding out a stack of creek maple.) A new man in our rickyard must learn many skills before we bring him on. But first is knowing what wood makes the whiskey. And what wood makes the fire you sip the whiskey by.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

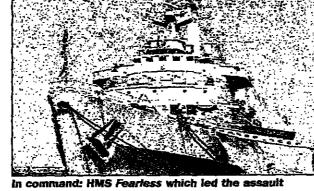
new rapid deployment force CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

"It's a Sceptre - special forces - on their way inland." A heaving droning sound a few hun-dred feet above in the starry midnight sky was an AC-130 Sceptre - a modified gunship -Hercules used by the US special forces. Three to five miles out to sea a necklace of lights showed the position of 13 big ships out of a total of nearly 60 British, other European and US ships massing off shore. At midnight, right on time, 42

Commando Royal Marines in landing craft and US marines in hovercraft hit the dark beach. a few lights picking up the white surf in their wake: "Purple Star" was under way. The special forces - the

American Seals, the British Special Boat Service and the patrol group from 3rd Commando Brigade - were already ashore and 45 Commando had landed by helicopter at an inland drop zone an hour before. Only the lights told you it was

an exercise - if it was real, the ships would have been completely blacked out. But even so, any of the forces invading the fictitious Republic of Kartuna would have heard and sensed the colossal presence just



off the coast. Fifty-four thousand British and US troops. sailors and airmen, were driving inland to end the aggression of the neighbouring state of Korona and enforce the UN's will.

They had begun to assemble on Thursday, 30 miles off Onslow Beach, North Carolina. Commanding the assault was HMS Fearless. Ahead was Sir Tristran, repaired after taking a hit in the Falklands, and Sir Galahad built anew after its predecessor was destroyed. On the horizon were eight gunships, sleek shapes like the British Cumberland and Southampton and US warships with 5-inch guns.

As in all military operations

the sweat and physical effort at the sharp end contrasted with the almost abstract language and detachment of the planners. The exercise is part of the fi-

nal work up for Britain's new permanent joint headquarters, recently inaugurated at North-wood, Middlesex, and of the joint rapid deployment force which includes 3 Commando and 5 Airborne brigades. In spite of a long tradition of

inter-service rivalry in Britain it is clear that in all future operations the services will work together, even at the lowest level. There is still some resistance to the idea, but none was evident "at the sharp end" yesterday.

Diana asks the Queen to hasten divorce

MICHAEL STREETER

The Queen has been urged to intervene again in the divorce negotiations between the Prince and Princess of Wales after a personal complaint from Princess Diana that talks between the pair's representa-

tives have effectively stalled. The Princess met the Queen on Wednesday to express her concern at the slow progress of

lasted for nearly five months. In contrast the Duke and Duchess of York reached a divorce settlement within ten days.

She is believed to have "implied' that if Prince Charles's side failed to speed up progress she may simply pull out and wait for the Prince to go for a divorce based on five years separation - meaning a delay of nearly two more years. They formally part-

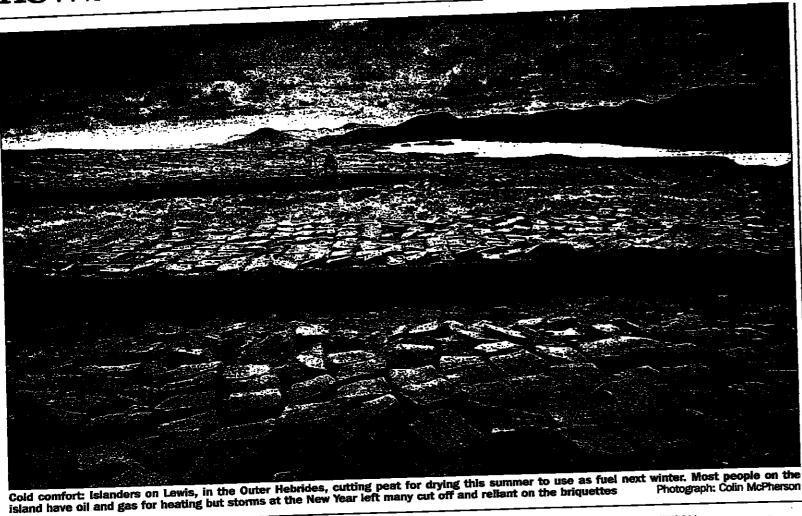
the proceedings, which have ed in December 1992. The afternoon meeting with the Queen, who sees all senior members of the Royal Family on a regular basis, is regarded by some observers as yet another "ploy" by the Princess to obtain

the best possible divorce terms. The main obstacle to settlement appears to be money. Speculation about the lump sum the princess has been seeking ranges from £15m to £50m, to be looking for a cheaper deal based on annual payments from his Duchy of Cornwall. There are also negotiations over the Princess's title after divorce. Buckingham Palace refused

a sum the Prince could not af-

ford on his own. He is thought

to confirm the meeting, merely observing that the Queen meets family members regularly



College inquiry stresses needs of employers

FRAN ABRAMS

Education Correspondent

Academic study could take a back seat to the needs of employers and to international competitiveness in the biggest review of higher education in Britain for more than 30 years.

Five business people and a trades unionist will join seven university representatives, a head teacher, a student and a senior further education college official on Sir Ron Dearing's committee of inquiry, due to

report next year. Terms of reference for the inquiry, published yesterday, emphasise the need for universities to supply graduates

the need to be internationally competitive are mentioned 10 times, scholarship only four.

Sir Ron and his committee have been asked to look at how the purpose, shape, structure, size and funding of higher education need to develop to meet the needs of the UK over

the next 20 years. In the past 15 years the pro-portion of 18-year-olds going to university has risen from one in five to almost one in three, and more mature people have tak-en up university places. The ex-pansion has led to debate on pansion has led to debate on student grants and loans and on the quality of degrees. Sir Ron's hardest task will be

solving the problem of student support. Students say of grants topped up by loans leave them impoverished, but accept the only way forward is bigger loans paid back over a longer period. Both main political parties have shifted their views on the subject in the past year, but are re-luctant to announce their policies before the election.

The committee has been asked to look at degree quality, which is already the subject of an inquiry by the universities quality council. There has been university, "he said.

industry. The labour market and talk of a national curriculum for

Among its members will be Baroness Dean, formerly the print workers union leader Brenda Dean, and Sir Geoffrey Holland, former permanent secretary at the Department for Education and now a vicechancellor. Business people have been appointed from Sainbury's. Psion Plc, Ulster Bank, Glaxo-Wellcome and the

Weir Group, a Glasgow-based pump and valve manufacturer's Announcing the inquiry's membership and remit yesterday Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education, said it would have a significant influence on future generations.

"Higher education has a vital role to play in raising the levels of the nation's skills and competitiveness and thus enhancing our capacity to generate wealth and to improve our

members to the committee. David Blunkett, the party's education spokesman, welcomed the announcement. He said: "It was developed in the same spirit of bi-partisanship which gov-erned the establishment of the

quality of life," she said. Labour nominated several

Maxwell backs Oyston defence

dined out with the tycoon Owen Oyston and a woman the millionaire is accused of raping three years after the sex attack was alleged to have taken place.
Mr Maxwell told Liverpool

Crown Court he remembered the occasion in 1992 because it was only hours before his dawn arrest by the Serious Fraud Office on charges on which he has since been acquitted.

He said he had met Mr Oyston, 62, at the Hilton Hotel in central London and had drinks in his hotel suite with the sonal assistant. The four of hours before, you don't forget them had gone on to an Italian it ever."
trattoria in Chelsea. A man

The model claims Mr Oyston raped her in 1989, when she was aged 18, at his country home near Lancaster. He denies the charges and the rape and indecent assault of a girl aged 16. Mr Maxwell said he had become friends with Mr Oyston, the sumes on Monday.

Kevin Maxwell, son of the late media mogul Robert, told a court yesterday that he had condolences over their father's death in 1991.

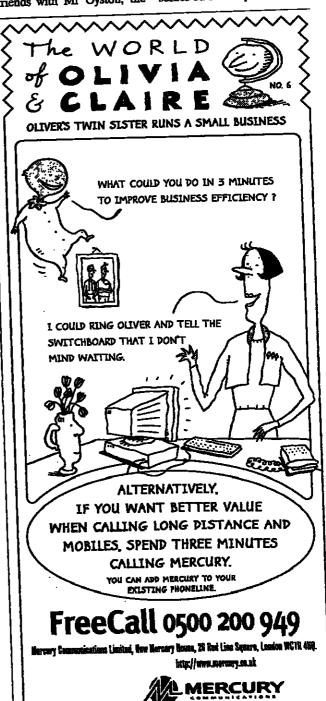
Mr Oyston and the woman had seemed to be on "perfect-ly amicable" terms, Mr Maxwell said. "There was no friction at all in the room. I remember assuming she was his girlfriend."

Mr Maxwell said he had not been able to remember the woman's name but had recognised her from a photograph. Challenged about how he could remember the occasion so clearly, he said: "I have only been arrested once in my life and you don't forget it. You don't forget at you were doing a few

A man and woman from the jury had earlier squeezed into the back seats of a Toyota Supra sports car to test the claims of the second alleged victim that Mr Oyston had forced her to perform oral sex as they were driven to his home. The case re-



Telephone:



art bans

Bill on stalking commandeered by Home Office

Accusations were traded yesterday after the Government blocked a back-bench Bill to outlaw stalking, and announced that it was preparing its own leg-

Labour MP Janet Anderson told the Commons that government tactics meant "victims of stalking would have to wait at least another year to be put out of their misery"

The single word "object", called out by a Government whip as Ms Anderson's stalking Bill came up for a formal Second Reading, consigned the measure to legislative obliv-

Earlier in the day, David Maclean, Minister of State at the Home Office, said the Government would publish its own proposals "at the earliest op-

Dismissing Ms Anderson's Bill as "full of flaws", he said: We believe its scope is too wide. It could mean that innocent people going about their

selves branded as criminals." He added: "She has made a

valiant attempt to come forward with a Bill, but unfortunately the scope of it is much too wide." Labour believes the Gov-

ernment has simply seen tack-ling the menace of stalking as a popular issue - ideal for the kind of action Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, likes to unveil at Conservative Party con-Ms Anderson said: "Ministers

know very well that they could amend the Bill in committee. Their proposals will be similar to mine but what they cannot stand is the thought of a Labour MP getting the credit for putting this measure on to the statute book."

Ms Anderson, MP for Rossendale and Darwen, esti-mates that around 3,000 people are stalked each year.

She drafted her Bill after talks with the Lord Chancellor, senior Home Office officials, the Police Federation and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust.

zone around a victim and require the stalker to undergo Breaking the order would be

a criminal offence.
The Bill included a legal definition of stalking - making it an offence to follow, watch, approach by telephone, interfere with property, leave of-fensive material or regularly visit "so that the other person is likely to be harassed, alarmed, distressed or to fear for their

Mr Howard insisted on Radio 4's World at One programme that he was "as keen as anyone to take effective action to end the misery which is caused by

But he added: "You can't do that by a Bill which isn't workable and which criminalises many innocent activities."

Under existing legislation, stalkers cannot be prosecuted if their obsessive pursuit falls short of intentional harassment or threatening behaviour, though they may still be caus-It proposed enabling magis- ing terror to their victims.

Court bans Eubank stalker

well back m defen

A judge yesterday ordered a man alleged to have stalked the wife of the former world boxing champion Chris Eubank to stay away from her home.

who is in hospital undergoing Health Act, was granted at

"full of flaws" a private Bill put forward by the Labour backbencher Janet Anderson.



Eubanks:

the roof of the couple's home in Hove, East Sussex, wearing the ex-champion's boxing shorts and trainers on Tuesday night. Mrs Eubank pressed a pan-

called out to trap an intruder.

Damage estimated at £4,000-£5,000 was done to the house belongings, including a pair of 29-year-old Eubank's boxing gloves, said police. Paperwork relating to the boxer's business interests was also defaced.

who was away on business - later said he was "upset" by what

dered to undergo treatment. said she was "terrified" as she . or harassing her.

Szymon Serafinowicz, an 85-

in Britain's first ever war crimes occupation of Belorussia, now

The grey-haired retired caryear-old refugee accused of murdering Jews more than 50 penter from Banstead, Surrey, spoke just once, to confirm his years ago, is led into the Old name, during the 36-minute Bailey yesterday, to stand trial hearing in court number one before Mr Justice Potts.

court for most of the appearance because of a hearing problem. He did not enter any The first charge claims that

on 9 November, 1941, Serafimurdered a Jew [unknown] in circumstances constituting a vi-

olation of the laws and customs of war".

The second allegation, worded in similar terms, alleged the offence was committed between 31 December and 1 March, 1942, in the village of Kry-

The last charge states that between 1 January, 1942 and 2 May the same year, he murdered a third unknown Jew in

Daniel was snatched from a

London street while riding his

bike, taken to a flat, and sexu-

ally assaulted. He was then dri-

ven towards Bristol, strangled

in a lay-by, and buried in wood-

Dolmatowszczyzna, another village under German occupa-

John Nutting QC, prosecuting, told the court that the full trial, due to start on 6 January next year, was expected to last between two and three months.

However, a preliminary hearing has been fixed for 16 October. Serafinowicz was granted

watched bim roam through the Serafinowicz, who was wearnowicz "a person resident in the gym which adjoins the house. He faces three charges of ing a maroon V-neck jumper, UK on the 8th day of March, blue check shirt, beige jacket A police helicopter was killing Jews during the German 1990, in Mir, Belorussia, a town and brown trousers with suede then under German occupation,

A temporary injunction against Russell Bennett, 32, treatment under the Mental

Brighton County Court. The case came on the day that the Government announced it would bring in measures to outlaw stalking "at the earliest opportunity" after rejecting as "unworkable" and

Yesterday's injunction issued by deputy district judge Albery Humphry was taken out by Karron Eubank, 30, against Mr Bennett after he was arrested on



ic button to alert police after spotting him when the house's security alarm went off. Police

A spokesman for Eubank happened.
No charges were brought against Mr Bennett, who was or-

Later, outside the court, Mrs Eubank's solicitor, Miss Naomi Turner, said the injunction prevented Mr Bennett, 32, from going within 200 metres of the boxer's property and pestering

One of the two alleged mur-derers of nine-year-old Daniel Handley told police that he never believed their sexual fantasies about abducting and killing a young boy would turn

into reality, an Old Bailey court heard yesterday. "It was a fantasy. It was just something we talked about. It was nothing we were going to do. We did not plan it - it was just talk," Brett Tyler told po-

lice in a videoed interview af- blindfolding a boy so he could ter his arrest. blindfolding a boy so he could not see and then letting him go

"I never thought we were really going to do it. I did not think Tim Morss did either."

Tyler said he and Morss would drive around "and just talk and fantasise about grabbing a boy, taking him hostage and do anything you ever dreamt about - any sexual perversion you could think of". The fantasy involved either

or you would have to kill him. When I said 'no' Tim said he

Murder trial told of kidnap sex fantasy

could do it," Tyler told officers. Morss, 33, of Leyton, east London, has admitted murdering, buggering and falsely im-prisoning Daniel on 2 October 1994. Tyler, 30, of no fixed ad-

false imprisonment.

land. His body was unearthed by animals six mouths later Tyler said Morss had said he was getting frustrated and dress, denies murdering the boy, but admits buggery and

would "love to do a snatch". "I just went along with the fantasy." He said they had

filmed each other taking it in turns to bugger the boy. Tyler had smoked cannabis and had a vodka and tonic before.

Tyler told police that, when he asked Morss whether he had dreams or thought about the killing, his friend had replied "no". "He just said he wished he had more time with Daniel. He said it was a waste and he wanted another one." The trial continues on Monday

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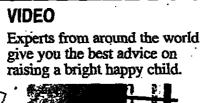


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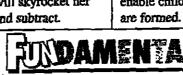


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GREENE KING F R O M

Patients on-line to improve health choice

GLENDA COOPER

Health authorities should set up "virtual reality health councils" so that patients can access information from public computers in the high street.

Ordinary people must be "given power over themselves, their illnesses and their lives", said John Spiers, chairman of the Patients Association. addressing a conference of can-

cer specialists in Birmingham. Mr Spiers said regional health authorities should pro-vide data on treatments' success rate and patient experiences which could be posted on the internet. This then could be accessed by rich or poor alike from computers in public places paid

for by the authority.
"Information on public health should be available in every high street. It will change the emphasis, he said. "There will be a fundamental change in the distribution of intelligence."

By allowing patients to get on-line they could learn where the most efficient and successful hospitals were and demand the most effective treatment.

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Trust, warned that more information was not always a good

He told the Cancer Services: From Calman To the Millenni-um conference that the emphasis should be on good quality data. Poor quality information attractively packaged on the internet is the worst of all possible worlds," he said. "There should be less concentration on the medium and more on the message."

But doctors should realise that the patient knows best when it comes to judging the impact of disease, added a consultant clinical psychologist.

They often failed to grasp

what concerns their patients, but if they took their views into consideration they could find which treatment most effectively help quality of life, said Dr Anne Cull from the Imperial Cancer Re-search Fund's medical oncology unit at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh.

When patients were asked how much their experience tallied with the doctor's perception of it on a scale of 0.1 to 1 (where 0.1 was completely unrelated and I was perfect agreement), the result came out at 0.31.

ten poor judges of patients' experience," she said. "Symptoms and side-effects do affect patients' quality of life. Patients often welcome quality of life assessment within their treatment as a vital opportunity to explain their feelings and per-

sonal experiences." When cancer patients in Canada were asked to fill in a questionnaire they were so keen to have their feelings made known that 95 per cent replied,

answering 99 per cent of it.

Dr Cull told delegates that such data could be used to give patients more information about the implications of treatments, enabling them to make more informed choices. But she added that further research into areas such as sexuality fatigue and brain function still needed to be carried out to ensure the clinical usefulness of quality of life measurement.

"Quality of life assessment in clinical practice may require a modest investment of staffed time, but it provides a cost-effective means of highlighting the patients' concerns which will lead to improvements in doctorWanted: Nature-loving female to share home-made hut in deepest Wales



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Part-time hermit seeks Girl Friday to share wild life

MICHAEL PRESTAGE

Surviving in the wilds of Snowdonia, North Wales, for weeks on end can be a challenging and lonely business, which is why Tony Westwood is looking for a Girl Friday to share his

In an offer that echoes Gerald Kingsland who took a partner to a tropical paradise on the island of Tuin, Mr Westwood, 33, hopes the loneliness of his chosen lifestyle can be lifted. Mr Kingsland's partner, Lucy Irvine, wrote a best-selling book on her experiences which

spawned the film Castaway. starring Oliver Recd and Amanda Donohoe. All Mr Westwood can guarantee is that worms are only caten as a last resort and if a film is made the production costs will

be considerably lower. Speaking from his cottage on the borders of the Snowdonia national park, five miles from Caernarfon, the nearest town, Mr Westwood explained that local women had shown only rehictance to share his two-month expedition this summer.

Without sounding unpleasant, the girls tend to be all white shoes and handbags. They are not keen on the idea of a home built from branches and leaf mould," he said.

He makes rope from plants

and tree bank, fashions clay pots and has a North American Incioth. He lives on a largely veg- to step forward.

etarian diet of plants such as thistle and the inner bark of the willow tree, supplemented with fish he spears or traps. Animals are only snared and caten as a last resort, as are crickets and grasshoppers, though he points out the insects rival steak for

An out-of-work labourer, Mr Westwood first turned to bushcraft three years ago after reading a book on surviving in the wild. But he eschews the Rambo evertones of many of his fellow practitioners.

There's loads of people into military magazines and cracking on they are former members of the Special Air Service," he said. "If anybody ever asks I tell them I'm ex-SAS - an ex-Salvation Army Singer. It helps take them down a peg. For myself I just enjoy the outdoors."

He has used his skills in charity events to raise money for the Hope House Children's Respite Hospice, Oswestry, Shropshire. Unfortunately, few major sponsors came forward. With his shaven and tattoord head and nose rings he admits his appearance is off-putting. "People tend to be prejudiced

if you don't look how they expect," he said, "I had the tattoos done when I was 18 and ... have gone bald since."

He was unsure just where the best place would be to advertise for a suitable partner but hopes the publicity over his appeal will dian-designed loom for making encourage a suitable volunteer

'Host' of clues to unsolved murder Ala over

A man who served two years in from them to say that they are A man water served two years to jail after being wrongly con-victed of murdering his girl-friend's parents yesterday urged police to follow up "a whole host of leads" mentioned by Court

of Appeal judges in their rea-sons for freeing him. Jonathan Jones, 37, of Orp-ington, Kent, was freed on 25 April after the three appeal judges said they were all "of the clear view" that his conviction for killing Harry Tooze, 64, and his 67-year-old wife Megan were unsafe,

Mr Jones and his girlfriend Cheryl Tooze were outraged when South Wales police issued a statement, shortly afterwards, saying they were not looking for anyone else in connection with the killings at the Toozes' farmhouse in Llanharry, Mid Glamorgan, in July, 1993.

But yesterday, in their rea-sons for clearing Mr Jones, the judges mentioned sightings of four-wheel drive vehicles near the farmhouse, noisy arguments and a mystery middle-aged man seen with the Toozes.

Mr Jones said: "It is now time the police got off their backsides and reopened the investigation. I know they have been investigating the case even while

waiting for new evidence.

The judges mentioned a whole host of leads which were never followed up. The police own computers which could have been used to try to trace the Suzuki seen near the farmhouse by neighbours. That was never done.

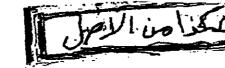
He added: "I don't think the inquiry was ever completed. It was superficial. It should not just be closed, it should be reopened and lessons learnt from what has happened."

Ms Tooze, 36, added: "I no longer have any respect for the South Wales police ... Somewhere there is a person or persons who killed my parents out there and they may kill again. That is why the investigation must be reopened but I don't think

South Wales police should do it." South Wales police later stressed that the file on the murders was not closed. Assistant Chief Constable Bob Evans said: "We wish to re-emphasise that we will rigorously follow up any new information which may come to light in respect of

these murders." The force noted that the Court of Appeal had made no adverse comment or criticism of I was in prison and it is no good the police investigation.

eighb



Space satellites to study effect of Sun's lethal wind

TOM WILKIE Science Editor

A flying formation of four identical satellites will be launched by the European Space Agency later this month to watch the weather in space and study the effect on the Earth of storms on the surface of the Sun.

The "Cluster" space mission will probe how the Earth's magnetic field acts as a shield to divert the torrent of sub-nuclear particles streaming out from the Sun. These particles of the "solar wind" would otherwise hit the ground at speeds of 1.5-3 million km an hour.

According to professor Alan Johnstone, of the Mullard space Science Laboratory at Univer-sity College London, without the Earth's magnetosphere human life would not survive. It "protects us by shielding us from the radiation from the sun. It's also helped us to hang on to our atmosphere".

Apart from Venus, no other planet is capable of sustaining life, professor Johnstone said,

because they all lack protective launcher, the Ariane 5. magnetic fields.

The shield sometimes breaks. In March 1989 there was a power failure throughout Quebec in Canada when a solar storm tripped the entire elec-tricity grid. But the breakdown can be breathtakingly beautiful when it takes the form of the shifting curtains of light in the high atmosphere over the roles high atmosphere over the poles - the aurora borealis and aus-

Dr Paul Murdin, head of astronomy at the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, said: "When the Sun sneezes, we on Earth have the possibility of catching cold and we want to learn how to turn our heads away and not get ill."

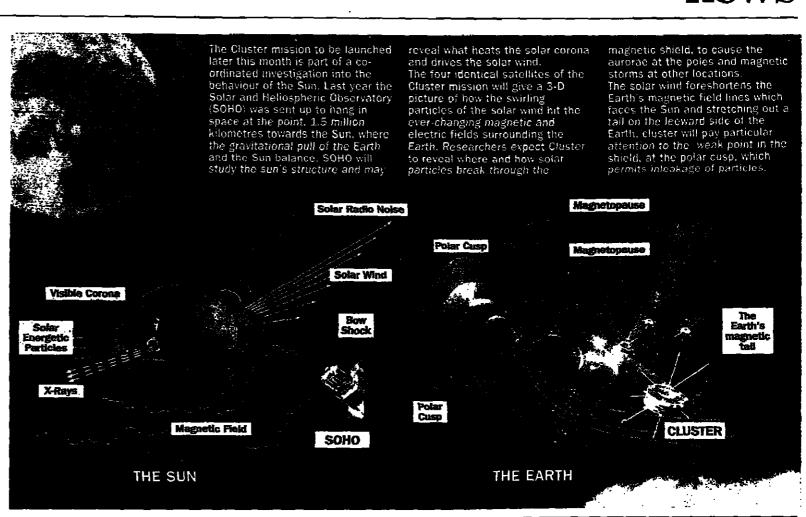
The researchers were speaking at a press conference in London yesterday revealing the scientific details of the Cluster

Each satellite weighs about 1.2 tonnes and will be launched into geostationary orbit in the first lift-off by the latest and largest European rocket

Europe hopes to steal a march on the Americans, Russians and Japanese with the Ariane 5, which will be its work-horse in the commercial-satellite-launching business in the next century.

When Ariane 5 reaches

orbit, the four Cluster satellites "will pop out like peas out of a pea-shooter", according to Dr Murdin. The satellites will then use their own on-board rocket motors to move into a highly elliptical orbit, which will take them over the north and south poles of the earth. They will fly in formation and their controllers on Earth will be able to vary the distance between the satellites from 600km to a few thousand kilometres. The Cluster satellites will carry a total of 44 instruments measuring mag-netic storms, electrical currents, and particle accelerations that take place in the space around our planet. The mission will last for at least two years and has cost Europe and the US around £500m over 10 years.



£100 fines to silence too noisy

STEPHEN GOODWIN

-time he

s Cirille

Partiamentary Correspondent

A legal remedy for dealing with the pounding beat of a neigh-bour's hi-fi in the small hours of the night moved a step nearer yesterday when the Noise Bill cleared the Commons.

The backbench Bill provides for £100 on-the-spot fines and not already done so. the confiscation of equipment causing the nuisance.

According to a recent survey, most divides neighbours. The sit back and do nothing. number of complaints have risen inexorably.

Last month a 40-year old company director was given a suspended jail sentence for firing airgun pellets at the flat of a neighbour in Clapham, south London, because he constant-

ly played rave music. Other noise cases over the past 18 months have included have included a grandmother ordered by a judge to stop playing and singing along to Jim Reeves records, a Sussex man given an absolute discharge for smashing his neighbour's hi-fi with an axe after "six mouths of hell", and a 54-year old angina sufferer dying after a con-frontation with a neighbour pounding out heavy metal mu-

sic on his CD player.
Introduced by Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Eal-ing North, the Bill gives councils in England and Wales power to take action against noise from domestic properties between 11pm and 7am. Where cases go

to court, rather than being dealt with by an on-the-spot fine, offenders face a fine of up to £1,000.

James Clappison, an envi-ronment minister, said the voluntary approach would be reviewed in two years and councils might then be forced to adopt its provisions if they had

Denying he was a "killjoy" Mr Greenway said: "One in 10 homes suffer severe noise. It's noise is the problem which as serious as that and we can't

The Bill, which has all-part support and goes to the House of Lords, also introduces into law an objective measure of the level of noise regarded as a nuisance ~ 35 decibels. It is about the equivalent of having a television at normal volume in the

The Treasure Bill, overhauling the ancient law of treasure trove in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, completed its Commons stages

A backbench measure, it redefines treasure to cover all objects, other than coins, which contain at least 10 per cent by weight of gold or silver, and are at least 300 years old. The measure also provides protection for hoards of coins.

Coroners' juries will no longer have to decide if an object was deliberately buried with the intention of being recovered - an often unprovable condition under existing law of a find's status as treasure - or

"Wouldn't it

be nice if the

wondrous.

futuristic,

world of the

just a little less,

well, virtual?"

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Solutions for a small planet

Police chief in plea over girl's drug death

a of ches The senior policeman whose daughter died after taking a mixture of alcohol, ecstasy tablets and painkillers yesterday appealed plea to other youngsters to avoid her mistakes.

Roy Pierce, a superintendent in Nottinghamshire, said in a statement following the inquest into the death of his daughter, Claire: "To all those other beautiful young people out there, please reflect long and hard on Claire's tragic death and please, please don't make the same mistake."

Superintendent Mick Salt, who read the statement, denied that the death of his colleague's daughter was an embarrassment to the force. However, he promised that to "make every effort as a force to track the

source of the eestasy". The inquest in Nottingham was told that the 20-year-old may have died trying to achieve a better ecstasy high on a trip with friends from her home in Mansfield to a Derby nightclub.

The coroner heard that Ms Pierce, a student, had died after consuming up to 20 distal-gesic painkillers on top of one and a half cestasy pills and a proxymol.

large amount of alcohol, in-cluding vodka, strong cider and alcoholic lemonade. Detective Inspector Brian

Dennis said that on the way to the club, Ms Pierce sold five ecstasy tablets and shared three with a friend, Vicky Burgess. Ms Pierce later complained of a headache and was seen to

consume 10 distalgesic tablets and pocket another strip of 10. Ms Burgess told police she had seen her best friend taking up to eight similar tablets while on exstasy. The mixture is commonly known on the rave scene to provide a "higher hit".

At about 4am some of the group travelled to a friend's house in Mansfield where Ms Pierce was "extremely drunk and incoherent". Det Insp Dennis said she was left to sleep with a coat over her but a friend noticed she looked cold. "Claire's head and limbs had appeared to

have gone blue," he said. Dr Nigel Chapman recorded a verdict of accidental death say ing a post mortem had revealed Ms Pierce died of poisoning from the alcohol and headache tablets containing the drug Co-

French say 'non' to single currency

MARY DEJEVSKY

Even if France meets the economic criteria for joining the single European currency in time for the 1 January 1999 starting date, French voters might well reject the idea - if given a choice. This is the prin-reacy.

The new poll suggests that cipal - and startling - finding of a new opinion poll, published in the latest issue of the quarter-

ty journal, Géopolitique.

The journal, published by the institute of the same name. is an independent academic publication, and the poll - conducted by the IPSOS organisa-

tion - is believed to be the first fore the politicians went any fur- beyond the general "Do you with 50 per cent who thought genuinely independent survey of rench opinion on the subject. Previous polls, which have shown a steady majority in favour, have been commissioned mostly by France's mainstream political parties, all of which support the single cur-

the French are almost as suspicious of a single European currency as the British and just as keen to take part in a referendum before it is introduced. A full 80 per cent of those asked said they wanted to be directly consulted, by referendum, bether towards introducing a sin-

Almost 60 per cent rejected the idea of any new currency in general, and the euro in par-

There was a general disinclination to be paid in euros or to use them for everyday shopping; and only 49 per cent of those asked even accepted the need for a single currency to facilitate transactions between EU member countries.

A big difference between the latest poll and the earlier ones was the specific nature of the questions asked. These went

favour a single European currency?" to probe the extent of public confidence in the projected euro. The results were not encouraging for the French government, which appears determined that France should be among the first countries to join the single currency on the

planned date. Only 34 per cent of those saked thought that a single currency would help safeguard the value of savings, against 41 per cent who thought it would not; only 33 per cent thought it would have a beneficial effect on unemployment (compared

not), and there was similar scepticism about the euro's potential to protect health and social benefits and financial security in retirement.

Several questions also touched on the delicate matter of how a single currency might affect national sovereignty. Some 56 per cent thought it would have a negative effect on France's independence, while 58 per cent disliked the idea that a central European bank might set interest rates across Europe.

Although President Chirac held out the prospect of a referendum on the single curren- questions had been asked.

cy during last year's election campaign, he has not men-tioned the subject since taking office and his public statements have stressed his total commit-

ment to the single currency. The latest poll results were reported yesterday in a very lowkey way by the daily Figuro which takes a generally pro-Chirac editorial line - under the headline "Single currency: a cer-tain disenchantment". But it was not clear from the poll results whether the French were really cooling to the euro, or whether this was just the first time that the more sensitive

Klaus said he opposed introduction of a single European currency as it would bring European taxes which Czechs would have to pay in Brussels, Renter in Prague reports.

The economics daily Hospo-

darske Noviny quoted Klaus as telling an election campaign meeting he did not want to have "European citizenship" on his identification card "in 10 or 20 years".

"I want to remain a Czech citizen and pay Czech taxes," Klaus told the meeting on Thursday in the small town of Neratovice, north of Prague.

Chirac to calm German defence fears

IMRE KARACS

President Jacques Chirac was expected to pay a courtesy call on Germany's Chancellor, Hel-mut Kohl, last night, in an apparent effort to southe German nerves about impending French defence cuts.

On Monday, the French cabinet is expected to finalise its five-year military-procurement programme, which Bonn fears may damage co-operation be-tween the two countries. Mr Kohl is concerned in par-

ticular about three joint projects: a helicopter, a military transport craft and the Franco-

German spy satellite, Helios. Faced with soaring budget deficits that threaten to scupper European Monetary Union in 1999, the two governments have recently adopted stringent cuts in public expenditure.

The effects of these austerity measures are already be-coming visible in France, as the vast conscription-based armed forces are slimmed down in the biggest upheaval of the defence sector since the war.

In Germany, the Defence Minister, Volker Rühe, must identify cuts amounting to several billion German marks by next month. Mr Rühe is tempted to slash projects with the highest degree of symbolism but least military content.

At the top of such a list would be Helios, the satellite designed to end Europe's dependence on US technology. Chancellor Kohl was badgered into signing up for Helios at last year's summit with President Chirac in Baden-Baden, even though Germany is perfectly happy with current arrangements within the Nato frame-

Mr Kohl may not be in such cordial mood this time. After the Muroroa fiasco, when President Chirac failed to forewarn France's most important military ally about the nuclear tests. Paris pledged to improve com-munication links. Imagine. therefore, Chancellor Kohl's surprise when he had to learn in March about the French defence reforms from the media.

German leaders are still smarting from that débacle. In one swoop, France was doing away with its conscripted force, to replace it with a professional army which, for historic reasons. Germans of all shades

Although the Bundeswehr is finding it increasingly difficult to fill the annual quota of recruits, hiring soldiers for money is a subject no self-respecting politician dare broach in Bonn.

Mr Chirac was doubtless going to reassure Chancellor Kohl last night that a decision of such importance would never again be taken behind Bonn's back. but the damage has already been done.

Hampered by shrinking budgets and undermined by mutual mistrust, the Franco-German axis needs more lubricant than a short dinner between President Chirac and Chancellor Kohl can provide.



put joint projects at risk

An icy blast from the Cold War past

MOSCOW DAYS

Driving through the streets of Moscow, that were draped with flags for the war veterans' holiday, to the Foreign Ministry press centre, where a spokesman was due to brief reporters on the spying row between Britain and Russia this week, I was overcome with a sense of dejà vu. Moscow's accusation that a spy ring was operating at the British embassy and threat to expel diplomats smacked of the tense days of the Cold War, when I first began

working here. It must have been months, if not years, since most Western journalists had attended a routine Tuesday afternoon briefing at the Foreign Ministry. In Soviet times, when the witty Gennady Gerasimov was spokesman there, we hung on his every word because the press conference was often our only source of news on events

Tit-for-tat was a frequent game. and expulsion an occupational hazard for

foreigners here

since reforms, we have had access to information of all kinds. The briefing was packed again yesterday, however.

The new spokesman, Grigory Karasin, remarked slyly: "It must be the warm spring sunshine that has brought you all out." In good old Soviet style, he then proceeded to drone on about Moscow's view of affairs in Bosnia, Yemen, Cameroon, Guatemala and Burundi before coming to the matter in which. as he knew perfectly well, we were all chiefly interested.

This was that the British ambassador,Sir Andrew Wood, had been summoned by the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Sergei Krylov, to receive a "strong protest" about the activities of some of his diplomats. Mr Karasin refused to confirm Russian news reports, quoting the Federal Security Service (formerly the KGB), that nine British diplomats would be packing their bags.

The row is one of the worst since Mikhail Gorbachev melted the international ice with his policies of "perestroika" and "glasnost" in the late 1980s and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 finally brought the Cold War to an end. Before

that, "tit-for-tat" was a game played regularly between East and West and expulsion as an alleged spy was an occupational hazard for any foreigner.

Veteran journalists at the briefing were slightly nervous because they knew that if the latest row widened, correspondents as well as diplomats could be declared personae non grata and ordered out.

That nightmare befell Alan Philps, now correspondent for the Daily Telegraph, back in 1985. He had just started a posting for Reuters news agency, when the Russian traitor, Oleg Gordievsky, defected to Britain and exposed a network of Soviet spies, prompting the ex-pulsion of 25 Russians from London. Moscow retaliated by expelling the same number of British representatives here.

"I was called to the embassy and they showed me a list," said Mr Philps. "There were 25 names of diplomats, businessmen and journalists, and mine was one of them. I was given three weeks to leave because the Russians had been given the same. We packed up and went out through Finland. Interdean [a firm of international renovers] was very busy.

Explusion can ruin the career of someone who has spent years learning the language so as to specialise in Russian affairs. Mr Philps said he regretted hav-Russian officials acknowledged to him in private that he was innocent and he was allowed back to Moscow on a trip in 1990 and permanently in 1994.

Under President Boris Yeltsin, diplomats, journalists and businessmen have breathed more easily. Once confined to Moscow, unless they gave advance notice of travel plans, and followed and bugged relentlessly by the KGB, they now move about freely and make open contacts with Russians in all walks of life.

The KGB was split up after the failed coup of August 1991 into the Foreign Intelligence Service and the Federal Security Service (FSB), which deals with domestic security. The FSB now concentrates on fighting organised crime and terrorism rather than persecuting dissidents and watching foreigners, as the KGB did.

However, although the stat-ue of the founder of the KGB, Felix Dzherzhinsky, has been removed from outside the Lubyanka, Russian liberals fear that if dictatorship returned to their country, it would not be difficult for the secret police to revert to all their old methods.

Threat to breadbasket: US farmers watch land turn to dust and prices plummet



Actor Bill Paxton watches a scene from the film 'Twister', which opened in the US this week. Tornados often rip across the Plains Photograph: Reuter

Spectre of drought haunts Plains

RUPERT CORNWELL

First the good news. Across much of the Plains it has been a bushel for the first time since salvage what the US Agriculture Department said yesterday would be the poorest winter wheat crop in 18 years, but enough to raise hopes that the autumn barvest of 1996 might be halfway decent.

True, much of the rain has come in blasting storms, and down south in Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle conditions are still dire. But Nebraska and parts of Kansas have had those gentle, soaking downpours that are the only real medicine for

dried out land. In the markets 100th meridian and the Rock-unlikely, if only because land of Kansas City and Chicago, wheat and corn futures prices have fallen after topping \$6 (£4) scourge of such parts is drought. may occur - but never again will spectre once again is stalking the American grainbelt.

The Great Plains, stretching 1,300 miles from Texas to the Canadian border and 500 miles or more from east to west, may be the planet's breadbasket. They are also home to some of the most savage weather extremes on earth: bitter cold, storms, searing winds and killer tornados, flash floods and heatwaves. Most important, yet often forgotten, is that the Plains' western portion between the

ies is steppeland verging on semi-desert. And the historic According to some meteo-

a period of drought roughly every 20 years, based on a cycle of sunspots and ocean currents. Through most of this century the formula has held: the Dustbowl of the 1930s, the scarcely less ruinous drought between 1952 and 1957, and a smaller visitation in the 1970s. Slightly out of sequence, 1988 also witnessed an exceptional drought. But now the 20-year marker has come around again, and the Plains folk are worried.

overploughing and over-use albe sandblasted away by the winds. Even so, the USDA recently reported that in Oklahoma 1.8 million acres, a greater area than in two decades, was vulnerable to serious wind erosion or, as local farmers put it, "ready to blow". There are oth-er uncomfortable parallels too. Nebraska has had its driest

February since 1875, the Oklahoma panhandle its second driest winter since 1895, and until late April scarcely a drop of rain had fallen in parts of northern

management techniques have

improved. A similar drought

Texas since October. Drought has turned swathes of Arizona and New Mexico cattlelands and forests into giant tinderboxes. In the wheat belt, farmers

elled and useless wheat, either writing off the crop entirely or replanting with hardier but less valuable sorghum. Just this week, the USDA designated Oklahoma a "primary disaster area", making small farmers eligible for government-subsidised loans - the one barrier to a repeat of the 1930s when banks foreclosed on bankrupt family farms by the thousands.

But at last rain has come. Not just the farmbelt but much of the world is hoping it will last.

Spanish state shivers as austerity cuts bite

A repeat of the Dustbowl is

ELIZABETH NASH

Spain's new conservative government yesterday approved a sweeping package of belt-tightening measures and privatisations that it says are necessary to keep the country on course for European monetary union in 1999.

It slimmed down the machinery of government by killing off some 80 departments and agencies, and pruning top ad-Helen Womack | ministrative posts by a third.

Rato, nicknamed "Scissorhand", announced spending cuts of 200bn pesetas (£1bn). "We are imposing a rigorous policy of budget discipline," Mr Rato said after yesterday's cabinet meeting. "The government position is that Spain will and must meet the [European

Union] convergence criteria." The urbane Mr Rato emerged as the steely nerved hero of two months of negoti-

Economy Minister, Rodrigo pact. Austerity measures form a cornerstone of the deal and -pour encourager les autres - Mr Rato has slashed his own ministerial staff by half. Details of where the cuts will fall are to be worked out over coming weeks and presented to parliament.

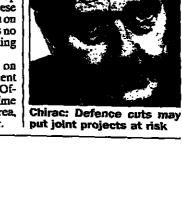
Mr Rato's measures sent an icy blast through the Spanish state bureaucracy, which the ruling Popular Party considers to have become unnecessarily bloated throughout 13 years of Socialist government, during

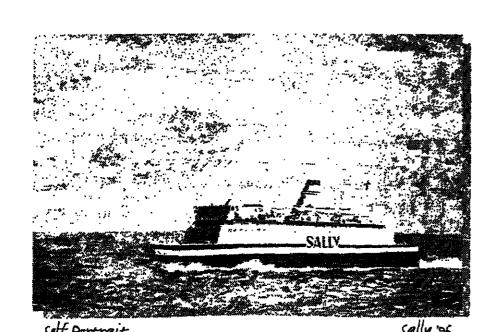
The Vice-President and tionalists in pursuit of a ruling which employees in every oth-conomy Minister, Rodrigo pact. Austerity measures form er walk of life have grown accustomed to the rigours of "reconversion". Mr Rato, seeking to calm fears that already flagging economic growth could peter out under the impact of this latest blow, promised to introduce measures to encourage private investment.

The Industry Minister, Josep Pique, a Catalan entrepreneur. plans to accelerate the privatisation process launched by the previous government and to hive off as soon as possible all

control. They include the Iberia and Aviaco airlines, Repsol petroleum company and the telecommunications group Telefonica. Mr Pique said these companies were a huge drain on state finances and there was no justification for maintaining them in the public sector.

To keep an eagle eye on cost-cutting, the government yesterday created a Budget Office answerable to the Prime Minister headed by Jose Barea, 73, an economics professor.





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De Klerk takes

stand on 'morals'

The National Party voted for

the new constitution, which

completes the transition from

white rule to democracy, but

announced two days later that

it would leave the transitional

Mr de Klerk said the NP,

which will be out of government

for the first time in nearly half

a century, would push for pri-

vatisation and the quick dis-mantling of remaining foreign

exchange controls restricting

"We believe that we should,

in a dynamic way, walk the road of privatisation ... We're taking

too long," he said. He said that his party also

would oppose the right to

abortion and the abolition of the

death penalty.

The NP secretary-general

Roelf Meyer, said the party had decided to pull out of the gov-

ernment because its views on

economic management were

being ignored.

local residents and business.

coalition on 30 June.

Johannesburg (Reuter) — The

outgoing Deputy President, FW de Klerk, warned President

Nelson Mandela yesterday that

his National Party would act in

opposition as the guardian of

economic discipline and morals

in post-apartheid South Africa.

stitution adopted on Wednes-

day, which caused his white-led

party to announce its early withdrawal from Mr Mandela's transitional coalition govern-

ment, lacked commitment both

"It does not show enough ap-

preciation that fiscal discipline

and macro-economic stability

are the keys to strong capital-

account investment [and] sus-

"On issues which affect all

South Africans, such as our

moral and ethical basis, we are

also deeply disturbed by some

aspects of the new constitution,"

tained growth." he said.

to fiscal discipline and moral val-

ues, Mr de Klerk said.

The new post-apartheid con-

Australia brings in tough new gun laws

ROBERT MILLIKEN Sydney

In the wake of public outrage after the massacre of 35 people in Tasmania a fortnight ago, Australia's federal and state governments yesterday signed an agreement that will give Australia one of the world's toughest sets of rules on gun ownership.

Campaigners for gun control bailed the deal as a historic breakthrough, but the gun lobby said it would drive gun ownership underground and do little to stop future massacres.

After a marathon meeting of federal and state police ministers in Canberra, John Howard, the Prime Minister, announced a ban on the import, sale, possession, manufacture and use of military-style self-loading guns and pump-action shotguns. Such weapons were used in the massacre in Port Arthur on 28 April and in mass shoot-

This is a historic day. The country has decided not to go down the American path.'

ings in Sydney and Melbourne in 1989 and 1991, which left a total of 56 people dead and 48

The only exception to the ban on semi-automatic weapons will be for farmers, who must satisfy police of a genuine need not met by less lethal weapons. Some state governments had campaigned for a farmers' exception, arguing that they needed such rapid-fire guns to control wild buffalo, donkeys, up a blackgnarket for weapons pigs and other non-indigenous species which breed rapidly in the outback and are officially

There will also be a new integrated, national gun regis-tration scheme and a licensing system that imposes tougher tests on those deemed fit and proper to have access to guns. Mr Howard announced a six-month amnesty for the surrender of weapons, and a compensation scheme, possibly funded by a levy on taxpayers,

for those who hand in guns that are to be outlawed.

No one knows how many guns there are in Australia. Estimates range from 4 million to 10 million, roughly one for every two-to-five Australians. Mr Howard said the annesty may involve "hundreds of thousands" of guns being surren-

By any standards, yesterday's agreement was a remarkable success for Mr Howard, coming two months after his election.

Gun laws have been the individual province of Australia's six states, which have always resented Canberra's intrusion on their powers. Tasmania, Queensland and New South Wales had failed to tighten their laws after earlier massacres, allowing semi-automatic weapons to continue to

circulate.

But such was the overwhelming sense of public shock
after the Fort Arthur killings,
with opinion polls showing 95
per cent of Australians calling
for tougher laws, that the state governments yesterday were left with no choice than to agree to Mr Howard's plan for national rules. As the ministers met, 35 people representing the Port Arthur victims stood silently outside Parliament House holding placards demanding change.

"This is a historic day," Mr Howard said. "It means that this country, through its governments, has decided not to go down the American path. It has decided to go down another nath." Rebecca Peters, secretary of the Australian Coalition for Gun Control, described the outcome as a "good result", but criticised the exception for farmers on semi-automatic weapons. -

The question remains whethamong owners who refuse register or surrender them.

The gun lobby, which has spent millions campaigning in state politics in recent years, appears to have been crushed by yesterday's decision. John Tingle, an MP for the Shooters' Party in the New South Wales state parliament, said: "Only 15 per cent of people who own guns in this state have licences They're not likely to register them now. This move won't lower the number of guns."



As a twitchy alliance of often fractious member countries, it

can never match the political

and economic punch wielded by

the US government. But rather

than simply making the best of

a bad job, officials speak of the

EU approach to trade disputes

based on the multilateral arbi-

tration of the World Trade Or-

ganisation, as something akin to

an ideology. "We must give priority to multilateral solu-

tions," said Sir Leon in March.

"Cosy deals between a few key

players are no longer enough."
Privately, European diplo-

mats acknowledge that the US approach is useful. "Because the

Americans are there waving

their big stick, it improves the

chances of Japan helping us,"

says one. "If we were all non-

confrontational, they'd be less

likely to come to the negotiat-

ing table." Sir Leon would not

admit it, but Europe's Mr Nice

Orange order: A military policeman watches as Buddhist monks in south-east Cambodia set out on a march for peace. The 24-day walk for national reconciliation is being led by Cambodia's Supreme Patriarch, Maha Ghosananda, as Khmer Rouge rebels continue to disrupt the country with guerrilla warfare

ing punitive tariffs on Japanese

ing compromise was formulat-

contrast and a source of great

relief to Tokyo. Hence the red

For Europe, such an approach is a political necessity. admit it, but Europe's Mr N proach is a political necessity.

carpet unrolled for Sir Leon.

Red carpet for Sir Leon, the man Japan likes to do business with

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

When Sir Leon Brittan visits Tokyo, he is accustomed to getting the red carpet treatment. Take, for example, his last major visit, in June last year. Its purpose was businesslike enough - the finalising of an agreement on Japanese imports of European cars - but in many ways it looked more like a visit by a lesser head of state than a vice president of the European Commission.

Apart from chummy chats with the Prime Minister, Sir Leon had a range of high-profile business meetings, and even an audience with Emperor Akihito. Japanese bureaucrats were effusive in their praise of their visitor, and precise in their comparisons.

Sir Leon's current visit to Tokyo, at the head of a delegation of European businessmen. is not such a glittering occasion. such a hit last summer is still there. Japanese politicians, their bureaucrats and business leaders, love Sir Leon for a very sim-

ple reason: he is not American. Tokyo's relations with the western world are often described in terms of a triangle, with Japan, the US and Europe at its respective points. Be-tween the US and Japan, the line is thick, if uneven - combined trade between the two countries came to \$183bn in unpredictable in terms of se-curity and politics. The Japanese, on the other hand, hold up the EU's approach as a textbook example of the gentle, civilised and consensual way they like to do business - in contrast with the rough, confrontational approach adopted by the US. This was illustrated at the time of Sir Leon's visit last year. The Americans, led by Mickey Kantor, were threaten-

Sir Leon Brittan: Advocate

1995, and bilateral relations are further stiffened by the crucial US-Japan security treaty. The fly in the ointment is Japan's perennial trade surplus. Even after the yen's rise last year dramatically escalated the price of Japanese exports, Tokýo was still selling \$43bn

more to the US than it bought. The Europe-Japan line is – total trade EU last year came to \$128bn. But, superficially at least, Tokyo's relationship with the EU has a warmth and cordiality never seen in trade talks with Washington.

The two sides have their own reasons for keeping things this way. The Europeans, for their part, know that they have a huge amount of catching up to do in their dealings with east Asia, the fastest growing trade region in the world, and one of the most

Liberian

refugees

stranded

at sea

Abidjan (Reuter) — Thou-sands of Liberian civil war

refugees on an old freighter faced uncertainty at sea yes-terday as Ivory Coast rejected

Ivory Coast said about half the estimated 4,000 people on the Bulk Challenge were guer-

rillas and forced the Nigerian

freighter back to sea from San

Pedro port after urgent repairs.

Ghana prepared to receive the refugees but the exact position

of the vessel was unclear 12

hours after it put to sea. Port of-

ficials in Ghana said they were expecting the vessel in Tema, near Accra, but had had no word from the captain since he put to sea. "We have had no

word. I have just spoken to the

control room and there is no

word," ports authority spokes-man Anthony Cudjoe said, adding that the vessel, Bulk Challenge, may have anchored at sea with further problems.

The Interior Minister, Emile Bombet, defended the decision to force the vessel to leave San Pedro port on Thursday

night, two days after it limped

to port with two metres of water in the hold. There are 2,065

people on the boat who are

rebels," he said, adding that there was no question of al-

lowing the passengers to dis-embark at any Ivorian port. He added that the United States

was putting pressure on his government to accept the pas-

sengers, ignoring that Ivory Coast already hosted more than

300,000 Liberian war refugees.

The Ghanaian representative of the U.N. refugee agency

UNHCR said arrangements

had been completed to receive

appeals to take them in.

car imports unless Tokyo agreed to specific targets for imports of US cars and parts. A face-savof compromise in trade ed at the last minute, but the EU's mild approach - per-suading Japan to sign up to a European agreement on auto-mobile regulations - was a stark

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MEZOOM

Rao quits as Congress routed

TIM MCGIRK New Delhi

The Indian Prime Minister, Narasimba Rao, resigned yesterday and dissolved parliament after his Congress party suffered its worst election drubbing since independence. With over half the votes counted, Congress's slide into defeat appears unstoppable.

After a terse cabinet meeting, Mr Rao drove to the presidential palace for his last official act as elected Prime Minister. For having led his party into its most galling defeat, Mr Rao, 74, now which is emerging as the largest also faces the prospect of being single party in parliament. But

ousted as Congress party leader. Mr Rao refused to give any statement after his resignation. He will act as caretaker until a new governing coalition can be forged, which could take sev-

eral weeks. No clear winner has

risen from these elections.

The President, SD Sharma, today will have two lots of politicians knocking on the door of his palace trying to stake a claim to form the next government. First will be a group led by Atal Behari Vajpayee from the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP),

reach a majority in the 543-seat Lok Sabha (parliament).

The BJP's combustible mix of religion and politics, in a country teeming with so many faiths, languages and cultures, may keep away potential coalition partners. But even the BJP's foes regard Mr Vajpayee as a moderate, the only one, per-haps, in his entire Hindu nationalist party.

The next claimants are the National Front-Left Front. The NF-LF is expected to win 145 seats, but a spokesman, Jaipal Reddy, said that many of the in-

with only 175 seats expected, the dependent MPs and smaller within its ranks. A former prime BJP and its allies are flailing to regional parties will rally behind minister, Vishwanath Pratap the left-wingers to keep out the Singh, would be the likeliest choice, but so far he is playing Hindu right. The BJP's call to revive Hinduism's ancient caste coy. Another front-rumer is Jyoti Basu, 80, a London School hierarchy scares away not only Muslims but also the lowerof Economics graduate who caste Hindus who are starting has kept West Bengal state unto assert themselves after thouder Marxist rule for 19 years. sands of years of repression. A third option is Laloo

a suitable prime minister from

"We can count on upwards of 200 seats," said Mr Reddy. Prasad Yadav, the chief minister of Bihar. Mr Yadav is a pop-The NF-LF is a wobbly pudulist who comes from northern ding of Marxists, socialists, low-India's large caste of cowherders . Under Mr Yadav, Bihar has lapsed into the country's most er-caste leaders, and regional potentates whose second obstacle - after finding the 270 wretched and lawless state. MPs for a majority - is to select

While the Hindu revivalists and the left-wingers fight it

ont, the Congress party has sunk into a pit of acrimony. Some veterans hold Mr Rao responsible for the party's election rout and want him to go. But Mr Rao's dwindling supporters cau-tion that if he is toppled, the party could be wracked by a war of succession that would leave it even more splintered.

The ultimate decision on whether Mr Rao stays or is chased out may depend on the late Rajiv Gandhi's widow, Sonia. Senior Congress leaders yesterday sought Mrs Gandhi's blessing to have Mr Rao replaced as party chief, but her response is not yet known.

N BRIEF

Armani gets a dressing down

Milan - A court gave designer Giorgio Armani a nine-month suspended prison sentence yesterday and ordered him to pay 100 million lire (£27,000) in a corruption trial involving some of the most famous names in Italian fashion. He was one of nine defendants at the trial, over alleged bribes to tax inspectors, who

had sought a swift verdict through plea bargaining.

Separately, a TV star known to virtually all Italians is being investigated for allegedly taking kickbacks from advertisers and has resigned as artistic director of the state broadcasting company. The investigation, announced on Thursday on his own network's evening news show, came as a shock to fans across Italy who view Pippo Baudo as the king of television hosts. Reuter

Nigerian leader fails to get day in court

Abuja — A last-minute block by Nigerian authorities stopped detained presidential claimant Moshood Abiola from appearing in court for the first time since August 1994. The federal high court in Abuja was thronged with dozens of relatives and well-wishers hoping to catch a glimpse of the man believed to have won the presidential vote; the annulment of the vote by the army plunged the country into political turmoil in 1993.

Gdansk shipyard workers march

Gdansk — Some 5,000 employees of the debt-ridden Gdansk ship-yard walked off the job for a second day to demand their April wages, as the government refused subsidies and suggested bank-ruptcy and mass lay-offs. The strikers marched into central Gdansk to present a complaint to the regional prosecutor over the non-payment of wages. Some threw concussion grenades at the office of the local member of parliament, but the strikers returned

Polynesia set to back Chirac

Papeete — French Polynesian voters are likely to boister allies of President Jacques Chirac in elections on Sunday, soothed by French aid after controversial nuclear tests in the South Pacific. Voters may even give Mr Chirac's right-wing ally Gaston Flosse an absolute majority in the 41-seat territorial assembly where he now has 18 seats, commentators say.

Germans outlaw marital rape

Bonn - Parliament passed a bill making marital rape a crime punishable by up to five years in prison, with the offence bringing up to 10 years in prison for rape of a defenceless victim. The Bill, the subject of years of political discussion in Germany, also allows for punishment for rape of a male victim; it received 318 votes in favour to 306 votes against, with two abstentions. AP

Museveni takes massive poll lead

Kampals — President Yoweri Museveni took an early lead in partial results from the Ugandan presidential election, taking 85.2 per cent of the valid votes counted, officials said. The Interim Electoral Commission (IEC) said, following the overnight counting of votes from 4.180 polling stations of the 15,597 stations nationwide, that main opposition candidate Paul Ssemogerere had taken 12.9 per cent.

Correction

Due to a transmission error, a report in yesterday's Independent on the trial of the US neo-Nazi leader, Gary Lauck, wrongly attributed to the defence a statement that Lauck had "continued to transport Nazi literature to Germany". The article should have read: "But, as the defence pointed out at yesterday's trial, under US law Lauck was committing no crime in his Nebraskan Heimat. Though he continued to transport Nazi literature to Germany even after he was caught and jailed in 1976, he evaded capture until last year ...'

Wiping out the dirty rats

Peking - Residents of a north-eastern China city have wiped out more than 400,000 rats since officials launched an anti-rat campaign in late March, the Xinhua news agency said. Residents of Shenyang in Liaoning province can claim a 1-yuan (7-pence) boun-ty for turning in the tail of each rat killed to the local health department, Xinhua said. One grain depot worker handed in 6,000 tails while a family of six farmers culled 1,000 tails in a single

Mystery 'Goatsucker' brings fear to Miami

Latin America Correspondent

It has been billed as part-cat, part-bat, even some form of alien. Some say it has glowing red eyes, an ET-like head and moves like a reptile. Others say it walks upright on Kangaroolike hind legs, strangling its victims with strong front paws before draining them of their blood. There are those who believe it's a fantasy fanned by

media hype. Whatever it is, one or more of the mysterious "chu-pacabras," or "goatsuckers," are blamed for attacking hundreds of goats, ducks, swans, and dogs in recent weeks from Puerto Rico to Miami to Mexico. In Mexico City, the beast was blamed by some last week for biting off the arm of a 25year-old nurse.

Fearing the "goatsucker" was a giant bat, Mexican peasants lit fires in caves, leading the Environment Minister, Julia Carabias, to warn that they were damaging fragile ecosystems.

The minister insisted the creature was a wild dog or large cat. But the English-lan-guage The Mexico City Times beast said to have been "b on eyewitness accounts". quoted a woman scientist as saying. I believe the goatsucker is had terrorised Miami but for in fact many animals that are the local police and experts the result of a genetic transmutation that went badly wrong."

surfaced last year in Puerto

that went: "Better have fun, don't hesitate, 'cos if the goatsucker gets me, it's gonna suck

This week, "goatsucker" frenzy swept Mexico, as farmers reported an alien-like beast was stalking livestock, drinking their blood but ignoring the flesh. The dead animals all had



Alien: An artists impression of the bloodthirsty beast

one thing in common - two large teeth marks and no blood left. "Goatsucker Fever Sweeps Nation," headlined the Mexico City Times on Thursday, along with an artists' impression of the beast said to have been "based

Earlier, the "chupacabras" had terrorised Miami but for answer was simple. This is just a big dog," said Ron Mag-The alleged creature first ill of Miami's metrozoo. In a city where many Cubans and Brazil-Rico, where its notoriety led to ians believe in black magic and not be serving goat stew.

"chupacabras" T-shirts and a Haitian immigrants go into Cuban comedian had a hit song trances at secret voodoo ceremonies, however, many took the mystery beast seriously.

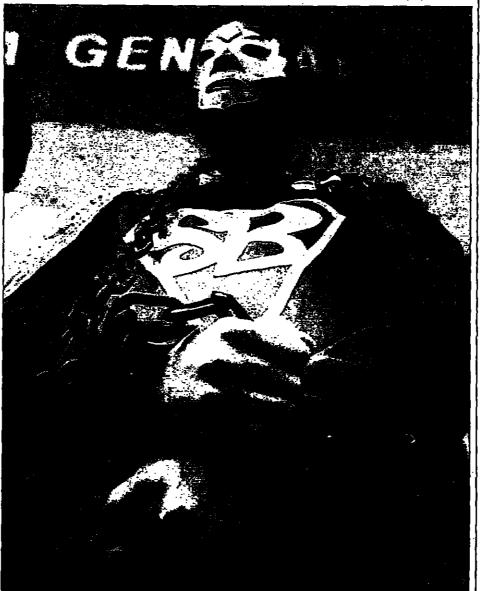
Some residents began hanging garlic chains on their doors to ward off what they fear could be an animal-like Dracula.

The "chupacabras" became something of a local Loch Ness Monster in Miami, feeding a hungry media on quiet days and giving vent to stories worthy of the "magic realism" of Colombia's Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

After the mystery beast killed and drained 27 chickens and two goats outside the home of Olimpia Govea, in Miami's Sweetwater district, the media flocked to the area, followed by assorted mystics and self-styled experts on aliens and UFOs.

"These are beings of superi-or intelligence," insisted Rober-to Orozco, who billed himself as a scientist and "goatsucker" expert. "They have been created by genetic engineering with the aim of destabilising the US

Virgilio Sanchez, director of Miami's UFO Centre, took prints from tracks left by the creature outside Mrs Govea's home and said he would study them with experts. In Miami's Little Havana district, a Cuban-American, Julio Ramirez, cashed in on the "goatsucker" frenzy. He opened a new restaurant called the Chupa Cabras but was quick to point out he would



'Super Barrio' and two supporters outside the office of the Attorney General in Mexico City. The three men later turned themselves in as 'terrorists' in protest at long jail sentences handed down to two alleged 'Zapatista' fighters. Photograph: AP evening.



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Asylum seekers: Local political parties condemn violent protest against deportations as thousands run amok | 'Murder'

Hong Kong is not alone in

acting on a international agree-

ment to achieve the repatriation

Rioting boat people on run in Hong Kong

STEPHEN VINES Hong Kong

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The most damaging outbreak of rioting in a detention centre for Vietnamese boat people erupted yesterday, leading to a mass breakout, police retaliation and a strengthening of political will both to deport the Vietnamese and pass legislation which allows indefinite detention of ethnic Chinese asylum seekers who are barred from returning home.

The riot, involving thousands of men, women and children at the Whitehead detention centre, started before dawn as part of a protest to prevent the de-portation of 900 inmates. By the time order was restored later in the day a 2,000-strong anti-riot squad had fired 1,800 rounds of tear gas, 26 huts were burnt down or damaged, including one storing the records of those about to be deported, and 53 vehicles were damaged. Road blocks were set up to catch an estimated 150 inmates still at large after the riot.

lages had to be evacuated, and raging fires throughout the camp, the authorities claimed that no serious injuries had been sustained. Police and prison officers were attacked with home made spears and

other weapons.
Supporters of the boat people outside the camps say that the situation inside is becoming increasingly desperate as an accelerated programme of deportations gets underway and China warns that it will not tolerate the presence of boat people in Hong Kong after it

resumes sovereignty next year.
China's insistence on total clearance of the camps was reinforced yesterday by Zhang Junsheng, a vice-director of the New China News Agency, Peking's de facto embassy in the colony. Mr Zhang blamed Britain for allowing the boat people to come to Hong Kong in the first place and not making sufficient efforts to resolve

Local political parties rushed



human rights issues as the behaviour which we will not tol-

centrepiece of its campaigns, was as vociferous as other parties in rushing to criticise the Vietnamese. Its spokesman, Albert Ho, said the authorities must "bring those responsible

Anson Chan, the acting gov-Despite fallout from tear gas to condemn the violence. The ernor, described the actions of of all non-refugee Vietnam being so intense that nearby vil
Democratic Party, which has the Vietnamese as "deplorable boat people within a year.

There were anguished struggles against deportation in Malaysia erate". She stressed the yesterday. However Hong Kong has the largest population of government remained "as determined as ever to repatriate remaining asylum seekers. Almost 18,000 Vietnamese are all Vietnamese migrants to Vietnam as soon as possible".

in Hong Kong camps. Compassion for the Vietnamese was exhausted years ago. Now they are seen as a ple frustrated at the way they are costly burden who have no treated".

business to be in the colony. The few supporters of the Vietnamese tend not to be Chinese. Robert Brook, a spokesman for Refugee Concern, said yesterday that he did not condone violence but asked for understanding that most of the inmates are "ordinary peo-

Legislators yesterday agreed to bring forward laws which would overturn the effect of a Privy Council ruling forcing the Hong Kong government to free Vietnamese who have been denied permission to return because of their ethnic Chinese background which, according to Hanoi, makes them citizens of another country.

link to Slovak kidnap inquiry

ADRIAN BRIDGE Central Europe Correspondent

As though an unresolved dispute about the kidnapping of the President's son were not enough, Slovakia has now been plunged into another controversy concerning the mysterious death of a former policemen

who played a key role in the kid-nap investigation. Robert Remias, 26, died last month after his car burst into flames on the outskirts of Bratislava. Within hours of the incident, government officials insisted that it had been an accident. Opposition figures, however, cried foul play. And ever since, two parallel investigations have been under way, with each seeking to discredit the findings of the other.

Jan Carnogursky, leader of the opposition Christian Dcmocrats, said he was convinced Remias had been murdered, claiming that the official autopsy revealed that a bullet had been found in the body of the victim.

Police investigators working on the official probe conceded that a piece of metal resembling a bullet had been found in the body - but they continued to deny the involvement of any

third party.

Before his death, Ramias was the key link between the opposition and Oskar Fegyveres, a former Slovak Intelligence Service officer who claims the SIS had assisted in last year's kidnapping of Michal Kovac junior, the son of Slovak President, Michal Kovac.

Mr Kovac junior was kid-napped outside Bratislava last August, driven across the border with Austria and dumped.

The opposition maintains that the kidnapping was part of a feud between President Kovac and the Prime Minister, Vladimir Meciar. But investigators into the Kovac case discounted the testimony of

Mr Fegweres who, fearing for his safety, has gone into exile. Given his link with the former SIS officer, the opposition says there was a political motive for getting rid of Ramias. Mr Meciar has slammed such assertions as unfounded.

Qana dead 'a bunch of Arabs'

Jerusalem (Reuter) — Israeli gunners have said they had no regrets over killing more than 100 civilians sheltering in a United Nations base in southern Lebanon because the dead were "just a bunch of Arabs". A soldier, identified as

Sergeant Y, was quoted by the Jerusalem weekly Kol Ha'ir as saying: "It's a war, in a war these things happen ... It's just a bunch of Arabs." The sergeant, in his reference

to Arabs, used the Hebrew derogatory term Arabushim, of what happened, insists it

which has no English equiva-

The soldiers said they were firing at guerrillas near the UN camp at Qana and that it had been a mistake to hit the camp where hundreds of refugees were sheltering. The attack took place during Israel's op-eration against Hizbollah guerrillas last month.

A UN report this week said it appeared unlikely the slaugh-ter was by accident. Israel, which has given varying versions

was a mistake. Another soldier from the artillery battery said the commander gathered his troops after the shelling for a "He told us, This is war. For

God's sake, the shits are shoot-

ing at you. What are you going to do?' He said we were shooting well and to continue this way, and that Arabs, you know, there are millions of them." An official army spokesman statement issued yesterday

questioning the accuracy of the newspaper report.

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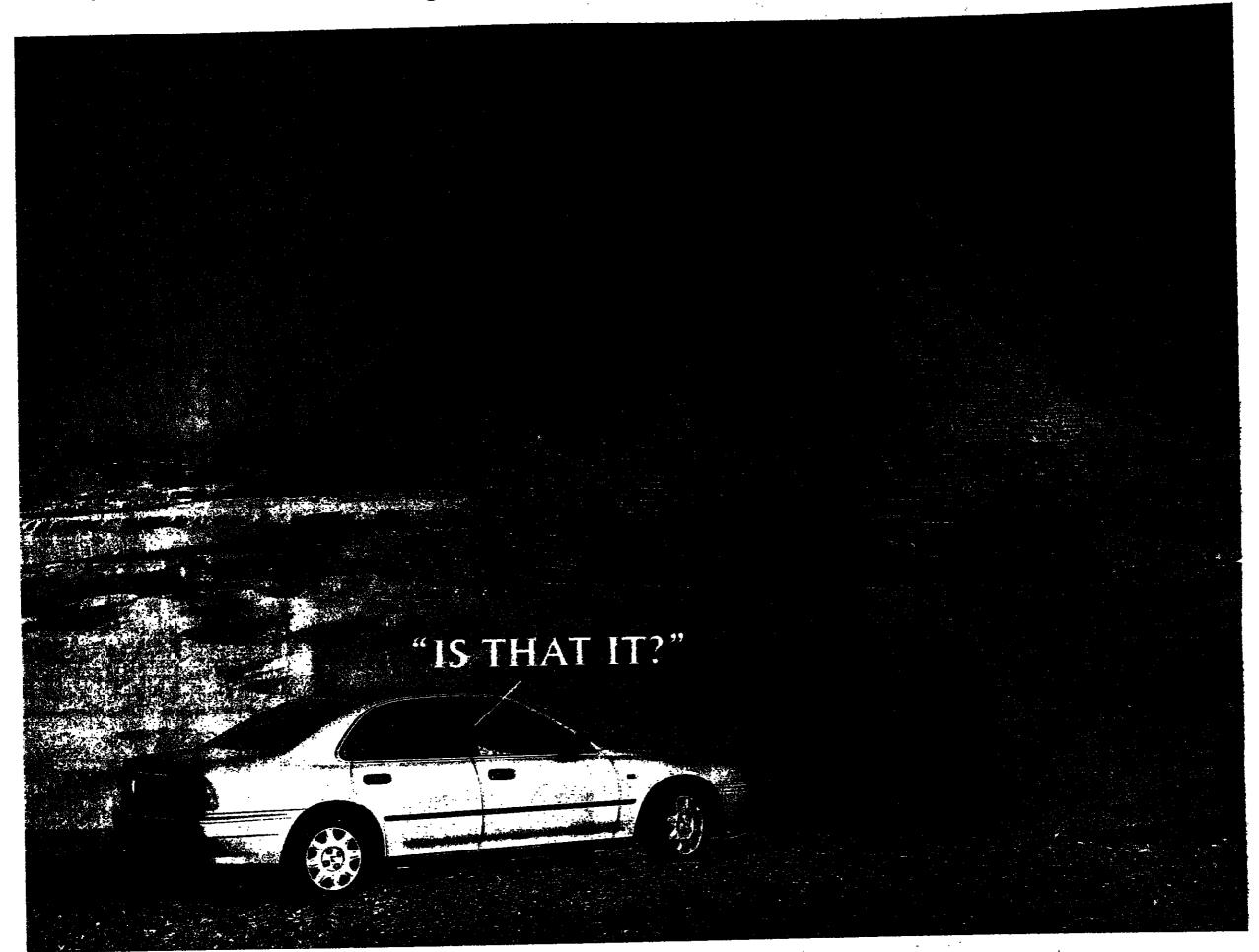


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English Catholics take pride in maintaining their public unity. But, says Andrew Brown, a bitter row about Derek Worlock, the late Archbishop of Liverpool, exposes deep divisions between liberals and traditionalists in Rome's dwindling flock

This man's death could lead to a Catholic civil war

66 The Catholic church in this country has two parties," says an insider. "There is the lesbian-nun-PC-right-on group; then there are the complete Pope-fetishists. And the two groups really hate each other."

This is not the image of the church split between liberals and conservatives that either party would like to see propagated. Still less is it the picture of the Catholic church that Cardinal Hume or most churchgoers would recognise. But it has been sharply drawn this past week. Until recently, English Catholics of all shades of opinion were congratulating themselves on having escaped the savage infighting that has plagued Catholic life in Germany and the United States, the two richest Catholic churches in the world. Last week may have changed this uneasy peace for good. Alice Thomas Ellis, the nov-

elist and former postulant nun, gave over her last column in the Catholic Herald to a bitter denunciation of the late Archbishop Derek Worlock of Liverpool. In one sense, this was not news: two years ago she published a book called The Serpent on the Rock, a rambling and rancorous attack on the modern Catholic church, whose title alludes to the idea of Satan in the bosom of St Peter (the rock, and purportedly the founder of papal authority). But the idea that these hostilities should be continued beyond the grave was new, as was the ferocity of her denunciation. Ms Thomas Ellis saw in Worlock the personification of all the tendencies towards banality, ecumenism and heresy that undermined the church of her youth. The Catholic Herald, edited by a caretaker in the absence of Cristina Odone, dithered over whether to run her column and afterwards regretted doing so. Today's issue carries an unprecedented front-page apology. This may be a storm in a teacup, but it is 3 a storm whipped up by winds that are blowing through the whole Catholic church, both

here and round the world. Worlock represented the spirit of the reforming Second Vatican Council, to both friends and enemies. The council, which met from 1961 to 1963, opened democratic and optimistic spirit of the American century. It vir-

unchanged for centuries all round the world, replacing it with vernacular liturgies; it admitted that God might be found in non-Christian religions and especially in non-Catholic Christianity, and replaced the idea of the Church as an embattled fortress with that of the whole Church as "pilgrim peo-ple of God", wandering through the wilderness together.

But Worlock also symbolised a profound shift in the character of English Catholicism from a largely Irish, working class body with a top-dressing of eccentric English aristocrats, into a church that fitted seamlessly into the English middle classes. And he did so as a consummate insider, which made his success that much harder for the representatives of the old order to bear. He was a convert's son, with 12 Anglican clergymen in his ancestry, who worked as private secretary to three successive cardinals before ever becoming a parish priest; and he was only a parish priest for 18 months before becoming Bishop of Portsmouth and then Archbishop of

Liverpool.

Though he devoted himself to the cause of his new city, it is difficult to imagine anyone of less natural kinship or sympathy with brawling, Irish Liv-erpool Catholicism. A courteous, pallid, softly-spoken bureaucrat with an air of holiness, he was a man of tremendous administrative energy. His ecumenical partnership with David Sheppard, the Anglican bishop of the city, whom he had met when both were working in the East End, was tremendously exciting to Christians committed to ecumenism - a smaller proportion of the Church than they supposed themselves to be. Worlock's whole career

might be taken as picture of the "Anglicanisation" of the Roman Catholic Church in the UK, culminating in the almost unprecedented award to him of a CH. This personal social acceptance went alongside the almost complete destruction of the traditional understanding of England as a Protestant monarchy and a deep schism in the Church of England over women priests. In one sense, up the Catholic church to the Archbishop Worlock's career marked the greatest progress the English Catholic church



Archbishop Derek Worlock: once fêted, now said by conservatives to be the personification of banality, ecumenism and heresy

other respects, however, the period was disastrous.

the noise of largely Catholic commentators pointing out the decline of the Church of England over the past few decades that it is easy to overlook the catastrophic slide in Catholic

He symbolised a profound shift in the character of English Catholicism

numbers over the same period. Whether measured in mass attendance, number of vocations, or number of communions, the Catholic Church in England and Wales has been quietly vanishing since the 1970s. Membership figures are always difficult and controversial, but the UK Christian Handbook records a decline in adult tually ended the Latin Mass had made since the period membership from 1975 to 1995 which had been in use between 1828 and 1850. In of 23 per cent, from 2.5 million membership from 1975 to 1995

to 1.9 million. As for vocations, in 1994, the last year for We have grown so used to which figures are available, four men from Liverpool presented themselves for training to the priesthood, and two women enrolled as nuns, out of a total, for the whole country, of 137 priests and nuns. Catholic figures show a decline in Mass attendance in Liverpool of 25 per cent over the past five years, compared with a national average of around 11 per cent.

> The great liberal hopes of the Second Vatican Council were first dashed in earnest in 1968, when Pope Paul VI decided, against the advice of almost everyone except Cardinal Wojtyla (who is now Pope John Paul II) to renew the Church's ban on artificial contraception. The Catholic middle classes here, and round the world, have simply rejected that decision: Catholic birth rates are indis-

Catholics. So, too, is the divorce rate among English Catholics.

The response of the hierarchy, under Cardinal Hume and Derek Worlock, has been to keep these troubles within the family. They have perfected a coded language which sounds utterly faithful to the Roman line, but at the same time allows a cheering latitude to individual conscience.

 The trouble is that the family is no longer as cohesive as it The explanations for this are partly sexual and partly sociological. They are not unique to England. Around 100,000 was. The dissolution of traditional English anti-Catholicism removed much of the external pressure for loyalty. And the priests left the Catholic Church absorption of large numbers of worldwide in the 20 years after former Anglicans - perhaps Vatican II: most to get married, 250 will become Catholic priests, if the money can be causing a degree of indigestion eralism, and proclaim: "We in the body of the church. These men have brought with them not only a dream of Catholicism rather alien to that held by most Catholics, but also a habit of wrangling and indulging in factional politics.

tinguishable from those of non- the speakers last Saturday at a sensitive positions in Church

conference organised by the small right-wing pressure group Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, which was also addressed by Cardinal Hume. Pro Ecclesia brought 2,000 people from around the UK to bear an American televangelist nun, Mother Angel-

The hierarchy allows a cheering latitude to individual conscience

found to pay for them - is fought for 30 years" against libhave already won a victory, but we are too tired to see it.

The meeting passed four resolutions which, in essence, called for the church to purge itself. The third resolution ran: "We humbly implore ... that One of the most important anyone who is known to dissent ex-Anglican converts is Dr from Church teaching on Faith William Oddie, who was one of and Morals be removed from

Administration, Catholic Education, or any other advisory or counselling capacity; and not be invited to address official Catholic groups." These resolutions came as an

unpleasant shock to the Cardiica, declare that "we have changed the meeting from a celebration into a campaign, and that he must dissociate Though his speech was, as always in public, precise rather than vehement, its clear message was that he would not tol-

> great blast against dissident Catholic intellectuals) amounts to dissent from the Church's then there would hardly be a Catholic theologian, priest, or even bishop left in this country.

cial decision will come when he is.

Liverpool is announced. There is one outstanding candidate in the tradition of Worlock and Hume: Vincent Nichols, one of Hume's auxiliary bishops in Westminster and a former secnal, who announced that they retary of the bishops' conference. He is a subtle and farsighted diplomat, whose only flaw, in the minds of his suphimself from that aspect of it. porters, is that if he gets Liverpool, he will be ineligible for Westminster when Hume retires, sometime in the next few years. Rome chooses erate an organised lobby of between three names, submitthis sort. Certainly, a purge ted not by the bishops' confer-such as Pro Ecclesia would like ence but by the Papal Nuncio, to see is quite unthinkable in the Pope's personal ambassador the present circumstances of to Britain. Everyone assumes the Catholic church. If rejection that Bishop Nichols's name is of Humanae Vitae and Veritatis one of the three; reports appar-Splendor (Pope John Paul II's ently emanating from the Nuncio's office suggest that Rome has asked for more information on all three candidates. Until teaching on Faith and Morals. this week, the right-wing candidate, Francis Marsden, a Liverpool parish priest who led an agitation against an RE course For the moment, none of that horrified traditionalists. this matters. The storm remains was not being taken seriously by within its teacup. The next cru- the mainstream. Now, perhaps,

Derek Worlock's successor in

Jo Brand's wee

I have long been searching for a Rupert Murdoch underpants story and during my final few days in Australia I found it. After the tour, we hired a boat in the Whitsunday Islands, so called because James Cook discovered them on that day (despite the fact that the Aborigines had been there for thousands of years). One of the Whitsunday Islands is called Hayman Island, and contains a resort for the world's playboys and superstars. (No, we didn't go there, we sailed wistfully past in the boating equivalent of a south London bedsit.) All the locals in Airlie Beach, the nearest town, don't half like a good gossip about it,



A survey of Glasgow minicab drivers found that over half of them had criminal records, including convictions for rape and murder. How very reassuring for women who have forked out for a cab, rather than risk the dangers of late-night buses or tubes. I have in the past noticed that the driving skills of minicab employees are criminal, but it never occurred to me that so many could back it up with an actual criminal record. It seems like the only feasible mode of transport in the future is going to be a tank. Then again, a Soldier would have to drive the bloody thing and you know what they're like.

Speaking of soldiers, it seems you Fan now buy top-secret military training videos from car boot sales. It will make a change from poin or bootleg Disney, I suppose. It appears

Murdoch (left). Apparently last time he was there, he forgot to bring any underpants with him. Slightly unusual behaviour for one of the world's leading media mognis, I think. A helicopter was immediately despatched to Airlie to purchase said articles, but being a bit of a one-horse town, the available merchandise was not to Mr Murdoch's taste. So underwear was flown from one of the big cities and his bits were secured in whichever posh kecks he likes to wear. I admit that on one or two occasions I have phoned my local cab firm for fags in the middle of the night, but never have I sent a helicopter forth for smalls. That is big time.

which led to story about Rupert

that these days anything marked "Top Secret" cannot help but find its way into the public domain, be it on a rubbish tip or at a jumble. Think I'll pop down to my local depot and see if I can't find a bit of evidence on the Westminster gerrymandering scandal.

I saw a very odd photograph in the Daily Mail this week. It was what appeared to be a grown-up woman's head superimposed on the emaciated body of a neckless nine-year-old girl With amazement, I realised that the head did actually belong to the body. This was Rachel Kirby, the 12-yearold model whose star is set to be catapulted into the supermodel galaxy. There seems to be some disagreement about the future of her career because of her age. Her parents deny that they want to put a stop to it, although the model agency



say they have put it on hold until she is a more appropriate age. That would be 13 then, probably. Perhaps it would be better to wait antil she is what more developed in the body area. No point waiting for the brain to develop, not by the evidence of the other mob of supermods anyway.



The backlash in Hollywood against sex and violence in films is gathering pace with a contribution from old smoothie-chops himself, Roger Moore. He remarks that he was horrified on his last Bond film, A View To A Kill (above) and harks back to the days of the Brief Encounter-type kiss, where one didn't have to watch "yards of tongues going down throats". He thinks actors are opening their mouths so wide that you can see what they had for breakfast. I'm not so sure that technique is particularly important, but I have certainly always

found Bond films distasteful for their portrayal of women as "things" to be conquered, who do not have an independent thought in their head. On the violence front, Bond films have never been exactly peaceful affairs. Sex and violence are indeed more graphic these days, but they were always there. Perhaps what is more important about the standard of Hollywood films is their banality. stereotyping and lack of wit - which brings us back to Bond films again.

Teenage boys in Finland are learning about responsible sex by playing a board game called Making Babies, which attempts to make them see that there is more to sex than boasting about it the next day. A throw of the dice may give them morning sickness or a bad back, as they are as likely as the girls in the game to get pregnant. This sounds like a good idea to me, and could be expanded and shippe over here. How about a game called Respecting Girls or Not Being A Bully!

How dreadful that my alma mater, the concrete jungle that is Brunel University in Uxbridge, has awarded Margaret Thatcher an honorary degree. Within a few miles of Heathrow Airport and resembling a desolate council estate, Brunel University has the dubious honour of having been used in the film Clockwork Orange, at the beginning, when a tramp is kicked to death by

Alex and his droogs. Perhaps it is appropriate for Lady Thatcher, then. Students at Brunei have threatened to protest, although the union president has remarked that it is unlikely they will ruin the day for themselves and everyone else. This is how I remember the place ... about as radical as a tea towel. This may well have been because it offers only science subjects and arts are nonexistent. Something the Tories have been striving for for years.

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Morris Leigh

university.

the Jews' Free School. For

backer of the Tel Aviv Univer-

The Royal College of Music,

the Institute of Jewish Affairs,

the Tel Aviv Foundation,

the Rubin Academy of Music in

Jerusalem and the Israel

Philharmonic Orchestra all had

reason to be grateful to him. He

was unstinting in his support for the Home of Aged Jews. His natural sense of humour was

evident both in his business and

Joseph Finklestone

philanthropic work.

When Meyer Weisgal, the leg-endary fundraiser for the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, was asked how he managed to extract millions from hard-head- modest means. He became a ed American millionaires, he replied: "I offer them immortality", Morris Leigh did not seek plaques and halls bearing his name to persuade him to help worthy causes. He was one he showed unusual abilities of the Anglo-Jewish community's most liberal and enthusiastic as well as discriminating financial donors.

The welfare and educational services offered by the Jewish community, though far from perfect, are the envy of many other communities. It is men like Morris Leigh, closely fol-lowing the fine Jewish tradition of compossion and charity, who made this a reality.

His support extended to artistic and educational causes not only in this country but in Israel, all performed with signal modesty and a quiet determination. It was these qualities which won him the admiration of such diverse personalities as Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and Sir Sigmund Sternberg.

Morris Leigh's background gives a strong clue to his character. He was born in east London, the son of a woodcarver of pupil at the famous Jews' Free School at Spitalfields, where he was considered outstanding, but left at the age of 15.
Joining his father's business.

and helped to transform it. When only 23 he built a factory in Tottenham which employed 300 people. It succeeded because he insisted on using the best machinery then available, as well as being a shrewd, determined and hardworking businessman in a highly competitive industry. Sterling Furniture deserved its high national reputation.

With the advent of the Second World War the factory was requisitioned for important war tasks. At the end of the war in 1945, Leigh joined the Allied Control Commission Germany to advise the British Government on revitalising what remained of the German furniture and timber

On returning to civilian life, Leigh rebuilt his factory and again produced successful and generally admired furniture. However, in 1957 he entered a orary doctorate in 1982, a

Seeking to obtain a role in the housing programme he established Sterling Homes, constructing and selling hundreds of houses in the south of England. Sterling Homes later expanded into Allied London Properties, which Leigh head-ed as chairman and, after retirement, as Life President, until well into his eighties.

The furniture trade, and the friends he made in it, never ceased to have a special place in Leigh's affections. He was immensely delighted and proud when elected Master of the Livery of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers in 1988. Seen as a man of sound judgement, he was also elected president of the Furniture Trade Benevolent Association.

Morris Leigh enjoyed a long varied and successful life, writes Sir Frank Layfield. The remarkable range of qualities and skills he displayed through-out his life became apparent In his philanthropic work his benefactions included music and admired from an early age. and the arts in Britain and Israel. He endowed scholarships within the Furniture Guild and The energy, determination and acumen seen then he was to

carry into other fields for the remainder of his life.

decades he was a important His enthusiasm and dedicasity who awarded him an hontion in business was only one section of the extensive and esture which he much appreremarkable range of Morris ciated. He had hoped to par-Leigh's varied interests. His energies were almost equally deployed in his philanthropic ticipate next month in the dedication of the Manja and excursions, to which he devoted outstanding personal Morris Leigh Avenue at the commitment.

His life-long philanthropic work showed his concern for a wide range of those in need of help and encouragement, in both the public and private aspects of life in Britain and in Israel. In the first of his interests, the furniture trade, he showed his desire to ensure that education in that field was encouraged and supported by the endowment of scholarships. His love of music led him to con-tribute handsomely to the Roy-al School of Music and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Morris Leigh was an ad-mirable, kind and generous man, but above all a man of the most humorous disposition and

recognised his integrity and fairness of mind. Those of us who were fortimate to be among his friends were perhaps best placed to appreciate that to his great public qualities must be added those of an engaging modesty, shyness, sympathy and understanding of all those he met. His desire to help and encourage others wherever he could was exceptional.

The witnesses to all these attributes are the astonishing number, variety and levels of his friends in all parts of the world, by whom he will be greatly missed. He is survived by his second wife, Manja, and a son and daughter by his first marriage.

Morris Leigh, businessman and philanthropist: born London 20 February 1907; married 1929 Rose Silverstein (first wife deceased; one son, one daughter and one son deceased), 1977 Manja Geraldo; died Reading 11 April 1996.

A memorial service for Morris Leigh will be held on 8 July at the Central Synagogue, Great of an endearing kind. Those the Central Synagogue, Great who worked with or for him Portland Street, London W1.



Drawing by Paul Benney

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

COURTS: On 2 May 1990, Ella Courts, née Mayer, born Ober-Ingelheim-am-Rhein on 18 August 1908, passed away. Her warm and generous nature, breadth of interests, but independence of mind is and will be intensely missed by her husband Ben, daugh-ter-in-law Miriam, son Hugh and very many family and friends.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversactes, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing Niemoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or fixed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

tices, functions. Forthcoming mar-riages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone

The Independent's main switchhoard number is 0171-293 2000.

Birthdays

TODAY: Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Anson, 67: Sir Edgar Beck, president, John Mowlem, 85; Lady Rachel Billington, writer, 54; Sir Rhodes Boyson MP, 71; Mr Eric Burdon, rock musician, 55; Professor Michael Hamlin, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Dundee University, 66; Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman, Racal Electronics, 70; Professor Antony Hewish, radio astronomer, 72; Sir An-thony Hollis, High Court judge, 69; Sir Robert Hunt, former chairman, Dowty, 78; Sir Gordon Langley, High Court judge, 53; Brigadier Joan Moriarty, former matron-in-thick Authority former matron-inchief, Army Nursing Services, 73; Mr John Parrott, snooker player, 32; Mr Jeremy Parman, television presenter and reporter, 46; Sir Jan Percival QC, Ian Redpath, cricketer, 55; Miss Natasha Richardson, actress, 33: Mr Mort Sahl, comedian, 69; Mr Mike Sleman, rugby player, 45; Miss Judith Weir, composer, 42; The Hon Montague Woodhouse, historian, 79. TOMORROW: Mr Burt Bacharach.

composer, 67; Mr Alan Ball, football manager, 51; Mr Dominic Cadbury, chairman, Cadbury Schweppes, 56; Sir Cyril Chantler, Principal, United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals, 57: Mr. Michael Coates, former chairman, Price Waterhouse, 72; Mr John Floyd, auctioneer, 73; Miss Susan Hampshire, actress, 54; Mr Nicky Henson, actor, 51; Mr Henry Hodson, former Editor, the Annual Register, 90; The Earl of Kimberley, member of the House of Lords Defence Study Group, 72: Lord Laing of Dunphail, life president, United Biscuits, 73: Mr Eric Lyall, chairman, Pearl Group, 72: Sir Roger Moate MP, 58: The Right Rev Hugh Mon-teflore, former Bishop of Birmingham. 76; Ms Jenni Murray, broadcaster, 46: Mr Chris Patten. Governor of Hong Kong, 52; Miss Rosalind Savill, Director, the Wallace Collection, 45; Mr Frederick Smithies, schoolteacher and trade union leader, 67; Dr Miriam Stoppard, writer and broadcaster, 59; Miss Deborah Warner, stage director, 37; Mr Steve Winwood, rock singer and composer, 48; Sir Paul Wright (Life Peer), former Head of the Diplo Service, 81.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Reginald Pole, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1500; Alfred Stevens, painter, 1828; Ottmar Mergenthaler, inventor of the Linotype machine, 1854; George Grossnith, the Younger, actor, 1874; irving Berlin (Israel Isadore Ba-line), 1888; Paul Nash, painter, 1889; Dame Margaret Rutherford, actress, 1892; William Grant Still, composer, 1895; Mikhail Alexandrovich Sholokhov, novelist, 1905. Deaths: Sir Edward Dyer, poet, buried 1607: Catharine Cockburn, playwright and author, 1749; William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham, statesman, 1778; Spencer Perceval, prime minister, asinated in the House of Commons by John Bellingham, 1812: Tom

Cribb, pugilist, 1848; Jeanne-Françoise Julie-Adelaide Bernard Recamier, society leader, 1849; Sir John Frederick Herschel, as-tronomer, 1871; Big Jim Colosimo. Chicago racketeer, shot dead by Al Capone, 1920; Juan Gris, Cubist painter, 1927; Harold Adrian Rossell "Kim" Philby, spy for the Soviet Union, 1988. On this day: Constantinople was dedicated as the new cap-ital of the Roman Empire. 330; Peter Stuyvesant, explorer, arrived at New Amsterdam (New York), 1647; the City of Greater New York, consisting of the Bronx, Brooklyn, Man-hattan, Queens and Richmond, was created, 1898; the New York World's Fair reopened, 1940; Siam changed its name to Thailand, 1949; the Daily Sketch newspaper appeared for the last time, 1971; the mostcal show Catr day is the Feast Day of St Ansfrid, St Asaph, St Comgall, St Francis di Girolamo, St Gengulf or Gengoul, St Ignatius of Laconi, St Mayeul or Ma-jolus, St Mamertus, St Richard Reynolds, St Tudy or Tudec of Brit-tany and St Walter of L'Esterp.

TOMORROW: Births: John Bell, surgeon, 1763; Emma (Lyon), Lady Hamilton, mistress of Lord Nelson, 1765; James Shecidan Knowles, playwright, 1784; Edward Lear, artist, humorist and versifier, 1812; Florence Nightingale, pioneer of nursing, 1820; Dante Gabriel Rossetti, poet and painter, 1828; Jules-Emile Fréderic Massenet, composer, 1842; Gabriel-Urbain Fauré, composer, 1845; Lord Aberconway (Charles Benjamin Bright McLaren) politi-cian, 1850; Wilfrid Hyde White, actor, 1903; Leslie Charteris (Leslie Charles Bowyer Yin), novelist and creator of the "Saint", 1907. Deaths: Waldemar the Great, king of Den-mark, 1182: Thomas Wentworth, first Earl of Strafford, statesman, executed, 1641; August Wilhelm von Schlegel, poet and critic, 1845; Sir Charles Barry, architect, 1860; Daniel-François Esprit Auber, com-poser, 1871; Bedrich Smetana, composer, 1884; Joris-Karl Huysmans, writer. 1907: Erich von Stroheim (Erich Oswald Stroheim), actor and director, 1957; John Edward Masefield, poet, 1967; John Smith QC, politician, 1994. On this day: the insurrection against the king known as the "Day of the Barricades" oc-curred in France, 1588; during the American Revolutionary War, Charleston fell to the British, 1780; a 20-ton meteorite struck the earth near Blackstone, Virginia, 1922; the General Strike in Britain collapsed, 1926 Caprain Amundsen crossed the North Pole in the airship Norge, 1926; the coronation of King George VI and Oueen Elizabeth took place. 1937; the blockade of Berlin by the Soviet Union was lifted, although othtinue, 1949, in Britain, the voting age was reduced from 21 to 18, 1969. Today is the Feast Day of St Dominic of the Causeway, St Epiphanius of Salamis, St Ethelhard, St Germanus of Constantinople, St John Stone, St Modoaldus, Saints Nereus and Achilleus, St Pancras of Rome and St Rictrodis.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princess Royal, Puron, the Northern Lighthouse Board, today and tomorrow visus Fair Isle, Start Point, Orkney and other Lighthouses in the Orkney architectago. The Duke of Kent, President, accompanied by The Duchess of Kent, today attends the Football Association's Challenge Cup Final, at Wembley Stadium, Wembley,

Changing of the Guard Changing of the Guard
TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment occurs the Queen's Life
Guard at Horse Guards, Hant; Ist Battalem Irish Guards mounts the Queen's
Goard, at Buckinghasts Palace, 11.30cm,
bond provided by the Coldstream Guards.
TOMORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Herse Guards, 10ant F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Bucklugham Palace, 11,30am, band provided by the Irish

Lectures TODAY

Victoria and Albert Museum: Sorrel Hershberg, "20th-century Furniture Design", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury.

The American Legend

The Allure of Watercolour Paintings", lom. British Museum: Simon James, " 'It ain't half cold Mum' - Roman soldiers at Vindolanda", 1.15pm. National Portrait Callery: Duncan

Forbes, "Regicide and Andrew Marvell", 3pm. TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Art Redefined: Marcel Duchamp's legacy", 230pm. National Portrait Gallery: Paul

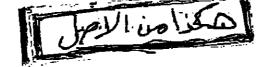
Webb, "Sir Donald Wolfit", 3pm.

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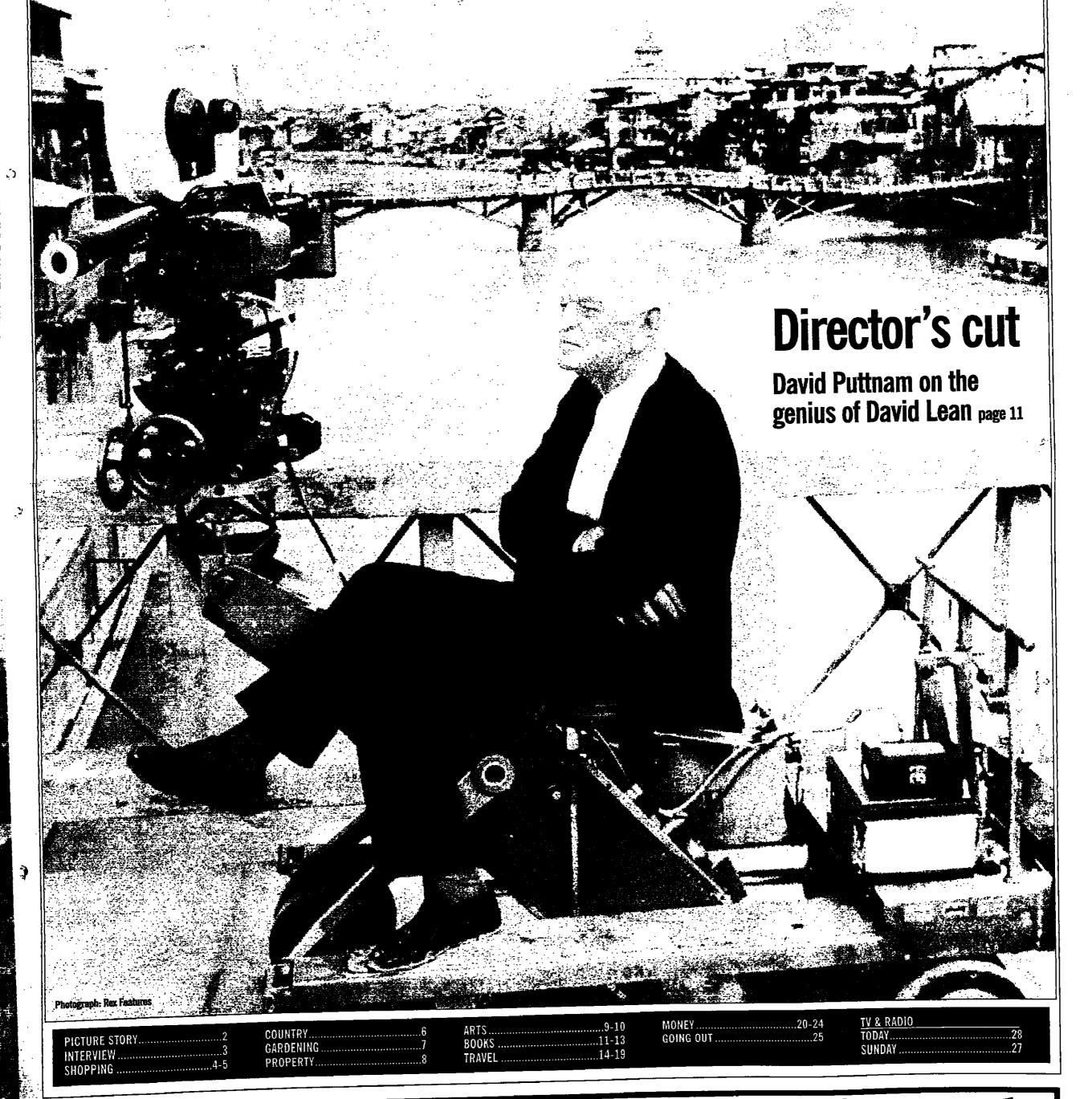
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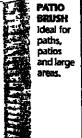
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picture story





THEY KNOW IT'S ALL

This afternoon, tens of thousands of Liverpool and Manchester United fans will converge on Wembley Stadium for the FA Cup final. Some of them will even get in. For the past five years, David Ahmed has joined the ticketless hordes condemned to an afternoon on the wrong side of the turnstiles. Here is his sorry report









Once upon a time in the west

He's tried everything, from suicide to dope on the White House roof. At 63, the outlaw Willie Nelson is the epitome of 'what they started America for'. By Jasper Rees

illie Nelson spent the evening of 29 April 1973 drinking whisky in Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, Nashville, staggered outside, lay down on the tarmac and waited for a passing car to end it all. There was plenty of snow on the road, but little in the way of automobiles. "I picked a night when the traffic was slow," says the failed suicide. "I hope I was smart enough to do that."

The morning after, he turned 40, a birthday by which most singers who are going to make it have already done so. On a heavier night for traffic, Nelson would have joined the already lengthy list of musicians gathered up somewhere near their prime. You'd have found his name near the bottom, in small print, way below his fellow Texan Buddy Holly, or Patsy Cline, who made his song "Crazy" famous. It's convenient, if not quite accurate, to date the birth of the Willie Nelson of legend to that night on the snowy, deserted asphalt. Actually, the troubadour had already begun roping a bandana round his brow and wearing his auburn hair down between his shoulder blades. But it's true that most of the income on which the Internal Revenue Service famously computed a tax shortfall of \$32m was earned after that half-hearted attempt to kill himself

after that half-hearted attempt to kill himself.

In the 1960s he made a tidy living from other crooners' polite recordings of his melancholy songs. In the 1970s he blithely reinvented country music, sang gospel, blues, Broadway tunes, and shifted more records than anyone in a hat had ever managed. He earnt the tag of outlaw and haemorrhaged the money.

A few years ago there were signs of creative wilt, but then he hired Don Was, jumpstart producer to vintage stars with engine trouble, and came up with Across the Borderline. It was a stunning way to kick off his seventh decade, which may be his finest yet as he scratches away at the upper limit of what we regard as an acceptable age for productive rebellion. (The new album, Spirit, is another beauty.) Willie Nelson has been 63 for a fortnight. He has snow white eyebrows and a ragged matching beard. The odd Delta bluesman may have been ploughing on for even longer, but no one who started out at the same time as Elvis Presley still pounds the circuit with quite such an air of not knowing what the hell else they'd be doing.

hell else they'd be doing.

"He's the paradigm of what a contemporary American artist should really be about," says Don Was down the line from L.A. "He completely shunned the music centres and set up his own little station on the frontier. He will not play by the rules. That's really what they started America for." It makes sense that he's a national institution. Sinatra sang at his sixtieth. Last year some Seattle bands made a grungey tribute album. When recently arrested for marijuana possession (a charge he'd never deny; he once smoked a joint on the White House roof), the case was thrown out of court

Last weekend brought Willie Nelson and Family's neverending tour to these shores. On Saturday night the paterfamilias shambled on to the Albert Hall stage, shod in
chunky grey trainers and baring sturdy, wrinkled old man's
biceps. The show over, Nelson pumped paws and signed
programmes for fans variously distinguished by nose rings,
blue rinses, beerguts and scrubbed pre-pubertal complexions. No high priest of popular music presides over a
broader church.

It's midnight by the time the glad-handing is done, but the promotional chores are not over. Out on the road Nelson sets aside the small hours for doing interviews.

We traipse through the old building's network of corridors to a door marked Conductor's Room. Imagine the talent that has used this cupboard down the years. Its current occupant perches on the sofa. His much younger wife Annie, a make-up artist he met on the set of a movie, takes the chair; and the pony-tailed henchman leans against the door jamb.

After the concert: Willie Nelson and Family, the interview. The first time Nelson performed in London, "if I'm not mistaken, I came with Hank Snow and we played the Royal Albert Hall". Ringo Starr popped backstage: maybe he'd heard that Snow, a country legend born in 1914, hailed from Liverpool, Nova Scotia. The Beatle "came in the dressing room, and said 'hello', and that's about it. He didn't know me from Adam."

Nelson set about distinguishing himself from Adam at an early age. His parents were divorced, so he and his sister Bobbie were brought up by his father's parents. Grandfather was a blacksmith with a gas station out the front on the highway. Little Willie "would turn the bellows that fire the coals that heat the horse shoes to shape them, and I helped him sharpen a lot of ploughs". But both grandparents also taught music: "They could read the 'do re mi fa so la' to the shape notes, and teach legitimate singers to sing." Their best ever pupil got a Stella guitar at five. "The strings were an inch off, so my fingers got toughened up early."

In fact, his first talent was in words rather than music. "That was the first thing that he was really so very good at," says Bobbie Nelson, his sister and pianist, who exudes the same air of slow serenity that's part of the Texan inheritance. (Another part, thanks to the state's ethnic diversity, is the catholic taste in music, which helps to explain the baffling news that Nelson's next release will be an album of reggae songs.) "Before I learnt to play an instrument I was writing poems," her brother confirms: "I was writing about things that I had no idea of." "Infidelity and betrayal," his autobiography says — straight into the wrist-slitting country groove. And the first song, does he remember it? "Sure." So how does it go? "Can't tell you. If it was that good I'd be doing it in the show."

His grandfather died when Willie was six. Perhaps out of proxy-paternal feeling, the town's other blacksmith invited him, aged eight, to join the local Bohemian polka outfit. "I've often wondered why John Raycjeck wanted me in that band, unless he just thought maybe I was going to be in some band somewhere and maybe wanted to give me a little experience of what it was all like. I played rhythm guitar in a band where you had a big drum, and a big oom-pa horn.



There was no way that I could be heard. I didn't care. I was getting paid, and they couldn't hear my mistakes."

For his silent errors he took home \$8 a night: not bad, pro rata, compared with the weekly wage of \$50 he earnt as a desk-bound songwriter when he first went to Nashville in 1960. But that was years away. He formed his first family band, with Bobbie, her high-school husband, the football coach and their dad, and got the touring habit. It didn't take him far enough, though, and at 16 he joined the US Air Force: "It was a way out of town. I had to get my grandmother to sign for me to go I was so young." He did a tour of Korea and, as the Nashville suits would discover, responded poorly to authority: "Everything was disciplinary and you had a lot of orders to follow, and I was not used to doing that."

Back home he worked on a farm in Waco and sold encyclopaedias and vacuum cleaners door to door. But having DJ-ed in his teens, he took it up again and for several years he flitted from station to station and state to state. In 1956, 40 years ago, he pressed his own single and hawked it over the airwaves in Vancouver, Washington. "I think I sold four or five hundred at a dollar apiece, and I threw in an eight by ten glossy."

There was marriage, children, drinking, trailer parks and penury, but the songwriting gathered pace. Commuting from Pasadena to perform over in Houston, he composed in the car, and in one week he wrote "Crazy", "Night Life" and "Funny How Time Slips Away", the rights to which would keep someone less spendthrift in moderate comfort for life. "That was a nice week." Did he know "Crazy" was that good a song? "Once I found the chords to it: I heard some chords in my mind and so I went to the guitar and tried to find them and it took a little while. The words came actually quicker than the chord changes."

Pretty soon he was in Nashville, writing songs for a publisher that others would record. When Faron Young gave him his first hit, the songwriter, \$20,000 richer, tracked the singer down to Tootsie's Orchid Lounge and kissed him on

the lips. Nashville had its first taste of Nelson's unorthodoxy. Though financially secure, his own singing career stayed stubbornly in neutral: a contract with RCA tied him up for 18 underpromoted albums. His voice's nasal phrasing was too loose and interpretive for regimental Nashville, and when his house burnt down two days before Christmas in 1970, he needed no further encouragement to slip home

to Austin and grow his hair.

"It was a way to blend. I felt like if I was going to be there and really relax and do what I wanted to do, it was a good time to do it because the audiences were definitely not dressing up. So I didn't see the need to do it, because I really wasn't trying to impress anybody." And yet this was when he started to do just that: he switched labels in 1973 and spent the rest of the decade cooking up albums done to his own specifications – not the overdone style of Nashville but rare, almost raw. Shotgun Willie was a shot across the bows, then Red Headed Stranger went gold. Wanted: The Outlaws, made with fellow troublemaker and most frequent collaborator Waylon Jennings, was the first country album to sell a million. Stardust, a collection of covers, defied all

dire warnings of disaster.

The money now avalanched into his wallet, but never settled. "I didn't keep it. It sort of went through me. A lot of people had a good time, including me. I don't regret it. I still try to throw it away quicker than I make it, but so far I haven't been able to do that." At the end of the 1970s, the IRS decided that Nelson owed them. He's often been portrayed as a financial incompetent, but he blames, and indeed sued, the people he hired to be competent for him. "It was bad bookkeeping on their part. I had an accountant who didn't tell me the right thing to do. He had me in some tax shelters and things that were disallowed, and it was really not that good advice." To sentle his debt, reduced to about \$9m, he did not in the end, as has been widely misreported, have to auction off his studio, golf course, western town, house and fishing camp. But he did hurry out a compilation

called The IRS Tapes: Who'll Buy My Memories. The 1980s found him diversifying into film (soundtracks and acting) and the annual Farm Aid benefit to help America's struggling rural communities like the one into which he was born.

The constant throughout has been his obedience to his twin mistresses, writing and the road. In 40 years he has written in the order of 2,000 songs, roughly one a week, though actually I'd skip a few weeks and then maybe write six or seven in a day". There are far more than can ever be recorded. Spirit. the new album, starts with three songs remembered from 15 years ago. The nearly completed reggae album rescues forgotten tunes from the early Sixties. "He probably wrote 600 songs in that period," says the album's progenitor Don Was. "There are 300 sitting there that no one's ever heard and he simply didn't have time to record. But the quality doesn't diminish. There were three or four that he really didn't remember writing." They're still mostly sad meditations on lost love and broken dreams. Does it all go back to his parents' divorce? "I can't blame it on them. I don't know. I'm a country songwriter and we write cry-in-your-beer songs. That's what we do. Something that you can slow dance to."

Like Eric Clapton, a more frequent occupant of the Albert Hall, he lost a son a few years ago. Where Willie had failed to kill himself at 39, Billy succeeded at 33. But unlike Clapton, there have been no cathartic songs on the subject. Miraculously, Nelson has kept up an air of unsullied contentment. He now has two more young sons, is doing what he enjoys and doesn't see the point of retirement. "I can't see what I'd be retiring to or from." The words from "Crazy" (which Patsy Cline hated when she first heard his demo) have never rung more true. "Worry, why in the world should I worry?" And there have been no more nights spent supine on the tarmac. "If you get by one time there's no need pushing your luck. So I haven't laid in the street any more."

Spirit' is released on Island Records, 3 June. Willie Nelson appears on 'Later With Jools Holland' tonight, 11.30pm BBC2

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Good thing

Bath-time toy bag £3.99 A cunning storage solution for rubber ducks and other bath toys. The rigging-style sack can be attached to

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Customers: Football fans believe it or not, including Rod Stewart, Robbie Williams and Cathy Tyson.

Current best seller: Man United shirt, from £27.99. The grey away strip is not selling so well but may yet become a collector's item.

Don't buy: Plastercast figure of Terry Venables, £2.99. Outgoing England managers aren't rare enough to be collector's items.

House and Home

Mail order catalogue £1 call 0171-439 0778

Welcome to Mondex City

In Swindon, you can buy a newspaper with plastic. At least that's the theory, as Martin Whittaker discovered

ncreasingly money comes and goes without you seeing it. In it comes, no longer by pay cheque but directly into your bank account. Then with telephone banking, direct debit and debit cards, out it goes again. There's still good old cash, of course. You can touch it, you know what you've got and at least everyone

takes it. But now even cash has gone electronic.

A Mondex card looks like a credit card, but actually contains a small chip that can store data. You load it up with money from your bank account and when you buy something the cost is deducted from the total on the card.

Mondex is backed by Nat West, Midland and British Telecom, who claim it offers "a convenient alternative to cash". But does it?

Obtaining the card was easy enough, being a Nat West customer. If not I would have had to open a special service account with them, Midland or First Direct. The card came within days along with a small plastic "balance reader" on a key ring. Slot the card into the reader, and it displays how much "cash" is on the card.

At the Mondex Centre in a busy Swindon shopping mall, staff show you how to use the card. You can load it with cash at one of 20 cashpoints around town, or on one of hundreds of special BT payphones. There's a pin number for security and you can lock and unlock the card. But, lose it, and you lose the cash.

So, to a cashpoint. In went the card, tao in a pin number and in seconds the balance reader showed me there was now £50 on it. The first buy was a newspaper. At a corner news stand, Victoria News, an assistant took the

card and popped it into a machine. A display showed the price: 40 pence. All very easy - no rummaging for the correct change, though it did feel odd using plastic for

such a small amount. And there was a compulsion to check the balance, what if I was electronically overcharged? But a quick look at the reader showed £49.60 left. "From a retailer's point of view it's very good," said news-stand manager Richard Jack-

son. "But less than one per cent of my actual customers use it. Lots of people get confused about what it actually is, they think it's a Switch card or a credit card." In Debenhams café they took it too. But among a large queue for morning coffee, I was the only one paying by Mondex. Did many peo-ple use it here? "No, not really," said the lady on the cash register. "I wish they did, it would

make everything a lot easier.

House and Home



Mondex: good for both buyers and sellers?

gian chocolates, but horrors - the stall didn't take Mondex. Forced to dig out cash, I asked stallholder Pauline Dawson why she wouldn't take my card.

"I've only been in business three weeks but nobody's come in and asked me for Mondex," she explained. "I haven't got one. I don't want one either. I prefer cash, I know how much I've got, how much I've spent and what I've got left. I like to see my money."

She is not alone. In Beatties I picked up a couple of toys and put them on the counter. Sorry, we don't take Mondex," said the lady on the till. "Somebody came round asking if we wanted it, but we weren't bothered to be hon-

est." So back went the toys.

In Burton Menswear I picked up several pairs. of socks. The sales assistant pulled a Mondex machine from under the counter and blew dust At a nearby indoor market I spied some Bel- off it. It wasn't used much, she admitted,

Everything you need to know about Mondex

Mondex was invented in 1990 and announced to the public in December 1993. The following year it was voted the Most Innovative Smart Card Accomplishment of the Year at the European Smart card Applications and Technology Conference in Helsinki.

in July 1995 the pilot was launched in Swindon. Two months later it was introduced into the town's six main car parks, and a month after that Mondex compatible payphones were introduced. Last January it was introduced on all Swindon buses.

Swindon was chosen for the UK pilot because its population profile is representative of the UK in terms of age and social class. The town has over 1,000 retailers, some 700 take

The upper limit on cash will be £500 during the pilot scheme. Its backers say it will be possible to send money between countries over the phone, eliminating the fear of being stranded abroad without any currency.

Customers can obtain a Mondex Wallet, like a glorified calculator that can store money, load it onto a card, and keep a record of transactions. In addition there is a Mondex screen phone, which effectively gives consumers a cash machine at home.

kiosks, fast food outlets and public houses. Trying to buy hinch on Mondex was a sad affair. The Oven Door, a cafe a door down from "Inevitably at such an early stage of a totally new concept there will be people in Swindon who aren't yet aware of what Mondex might do the Mondex Centre didn't take it. Nor did the restaurant in the Wyvern Theatre. The Savoy, for them. But independent market research has shown that the overwhelming majority of those a big pub in the centre, took Access, Visa, Switch and Amex - but not Mondex. Increaswho do use Mondex are very happy with it."

ingly hungry, I ended up in McDonalds. This seemed appropriate. Fast food—electronic cash; McDonalds—McMondex! The young lad behind the register informed me that his Mondex card had been taken away by the bank because he kept ening overdrawn with it. Perhaps I was unlucky. Rather than a convenient alternative as its backers suggest, I found shopping with a Mondex card frustrat-ing. At the end of the day I felt nostalgic about good old fashioned notes and coins. because he kept going overdrawn with it.

Despite all this, Mondex UK Ltd are quite

It begged this question -do we actually need an alternative to cash? Or is it simply a need bullish about what they claim is a success. They the banks are trying to sell us? Although the Mondex card is free at the moment, from say some 70 per cent of the town's retailers take it, while there are currently around 10,000 card December 1997 they start charging £1.50 a month for it. Surely that will be the real test. holders. "Mondex is beginning to replace cash,

Mondex is on trial in Swindon until 1997

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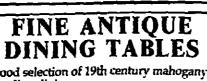
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The plastic inflatable bangle: simply a must for shiny, happy people

By Dominic Lutyens

was until Sixties and Seventies retro legitimised it again. Cult London shop Tom Tom first reminded us of range, available in zesty limes, oranges and how quirky and fun original Sixties and Seventies plastic furniture can be. Now, shops such as Oggetti Alessi, which once specialised in dauntingly "grown-up" china and glass, stock funky, frivolous plastic goodies.

It's not only the home that's welcoming back shiny, happy plastic. Judging by Jan-ice Taylor's popular PVC and moulded Perspex bangles, rings, necklaces and belts, jewellery designers may be poised to embrace

And about time. Just as designer black shows no signs of giving up the ghost, so silver has been the easy jewellery of choice for as long as most of us can remember. Taylor's designs are not only original and irreverent, they are also very contemporary on a slinky chain to be worn around the in that their colours and shapes refer to the look and mood of Sixties and Seventies space-age furniture. Her inflatable bangles suggest that, somewhere along the line, she was smitten by the experimental blow-up furniture of the Sixties (for example, Italian designer Zanotta's classic Michelin man of a chair, Blow). "Futuristic furniture might have been very trendy in the Sixties," says Taylor, "but some of it was timeless so it has lasted well."

Clearly, Taylor also has a soft spot for the space-age Perspex jewellery that was so in vogue in the early Seventies - the uncompromisingly modern kind you can imagine finger-on-the-pulse Bond girls wearing with a devastatingly simple halter-neck dress for a date with 007.

Taylor studied painting and sculpture in her native New Zealand before moving to London where she got hooked on making jewellery. Although her ideas have always heen innovative, her first designs looked nothing like the hard-edged jewellery she produces today. First came a collection of neck-laces consisting of an intricate cobweb of semi-precious beads that covered the entire torso, "I wanted to design something that was half-way between jewellery and clothing," she explains. "The natural extension of that was to make body jewellery, which is when I thought of doing cane shin pads. The cane was woven in such a way that the pads were in how the Seventies were inspired by difstretchy and moulded to the body."

natural materials go against the grain? "Not at all. My work always picks up on what fab-

were once as inflexible in our ries are fashionable at the time," says Taydislike of plastic as plastic itself. lor. "Two years ago, everyone was wearing It was nasty, tacky, and, to invoke linens and natural fibres, so my designs then its slang meaning, "fake". That had a more natural look." Now that people think plastic's fantastic, she is, of course, in her element. Her current highly polished yellows, couldn't be more in tune with this summer's much-trumpeted fashion for juicy, citrus shades. Not surprisingly, London shops like Browns, Liberty, American Retro and Koh Samui have snapped up Tay-

Taylor stresses that she wants her designs to be seen as extrovert and fun. "I like jewellery to look cartoony and very comicstrip," she says. Recalling brightly coloured lilos and children's arm bands, her inflatable bangles, from £28.00, have kitschy, seaside overtones. Available in mad fluorescents, many of them also look tailor-made for raves. A midriff-encircling "necklace", waist - has been a hit with American Retro's club-fiend customers. Just as idiosyncratic are Taylor's neck bib (a transparent choker that looks like a miniature baby's bib, from £45.00), clavicle pendant and multi-coloured candy-stripe Perspex knuckle-dusters. Made of superlight materials, they are also very comfortable.

Taylor concedes that although its more

respectable now, plastic jewellery still isn't taken seriously by some fashion cognoscenti. "Some people think of plastic as throwaway and trite," she says. "To give it more credi-bility, I'll couple it with silver pins or an elegant snake chain in silver-plated nickel." Not that Taylor need worry about her designs lacking credibility or of being pigeomboled as kitsch. For starters, she has an eye for unusual colour combinations. One of her belt buckles, for example, teams a loud egg-yolk yellow with a quiet grey, while one of her bracelets is made of two interlocking semicircles, one in a mellow flesh colour, the other in a garish fluorescent green.

Looking ahead a bit, for autumn/winter (she brings out two ranges a year), Taylor plans to replace summer's day-glo brights with lapel pins, chokers and chunky bracelets in classical tan, amber and lacquer red. She will also be using Bakelite Perspex to create a Forties flavour, while sticking to Seventies modernist shapes. "Tm interested retchy and moulded to the body."

For one so passionate about the heavily ynthetic space-age aesthetic, didn't using sandwich these different influences."

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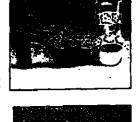




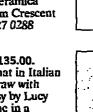
lanice Taylor's fantastic plastic iewellery: inflatable bracelets from £28.00; perspex and silver rings from £34.00; two-piece clear bangle with silver stud from £37.50.

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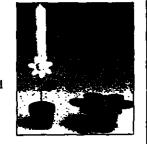
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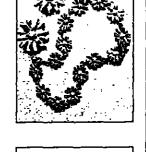
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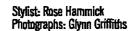
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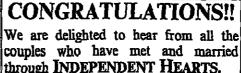
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It's definitely a young boy's game - damned hard work and physically punishing. I'm 35 now and can't imagine still being up to the job in five years

Gwynfor Evans effortlessly sits yet another sheep at his feet, rubs his aching back and bends to the task in hand. Each sweep of the currer is completed with astonishing speed and accuracy, the entire fleece pecling away within a minute.

The season for shearing sheep is short, but intense, starting in May and finishing before August. At the end of the period Gwynfor and his "gang" of farmers' sons will have notched up some 50 days. shearing around 50,000 sheep between them.

"Mostly we clip small mountain sheep on the hill farms. charging 35p each - mind you, I'd want at least 50p for larger lowland sheep," he says. "The gang number depends on the quantity of sheep. We each clip around 280 a day although one lad once managed 374."

One of the hill farms Gwynfor works at has 2,300 sheep to be shorn in a single day. To achieve this, nine shearers are required. The farmer, Robert Lewis, organises the rest. "For every two men shearing, I need one wool 'lapper' to fold and roll the fleece, keep the floors swept clean and fill the wool sheets." These "sheets" are large hessian sacks strung to the ceiling with capacity to hold 40-50 fleeces each.

Traditionally, the farmer employed extra men to catch the sheep for shearing but lately a catch-your-own policy seems to be favoured. "I can charge a couple of pence more per sheep to do this and it's easier on your back if you can straighten up between each one," admits Gwynfor. Usually, clipping starts at

8am uniess a heavy dew or rain occurs overnight. If the sheep are wet, shearing is held up, Gwynfor grimaces at the thought. "You can't shear wet sheep but we must be finished up, ready for the next farm the following day. We can only wrap it up when all the sheep are done - 5pm if we're very lucky, 10pm if we're not."

Most farms "pitch" their sheep at shearing time (painting the farmer's initials on the backs for identification) and this requires an extra pair of hands. Robert Lewis needs a total of 24 men including Gwynfor's gang for the day.

How well the sheep shear warm, dry spring being ideal. A until the sap rises in spring and depends on the weather: a lay cold, wet season causes the natural body grease of the sheep to more. cling to the skin, preventing the wool rising and resulting in



shearing being "sticky and tough going". In the past, farmers used to wash the sheep a few days before clipping. "They would 'stank' (dam) a brook with sand bags to make a pool then put the sheep in for a few minutes," explains Gwynfor. "Clipping was a lot easier: the water washed out the grease and left the fleece spotless. I can remember helping as a child but the practice stopped over 25

On Robert Lewis's farm, shearing is the single most important day of the year with an enormous amount of organising on Robert's part to ensure its smooth running. "Everyone pitches in - neighbours, relatives, even local retired farmers looking for a day out back on the farm, come to lend a hand," he says. "The womenfolk don't have it easy either: it's a long day, with many mouths to feed." Gwynfor's day doesn't just

start with shearing either. 'I have to be up at 5.30am to grind the combs and cutters for the machines". And it doesn't end there: " My evenings are spent arranging the gang for the following day - hay harvesting often falls during shearing time so the farming lads won't commit themselves in advance."

Gwynfor started shearing at 16 but it wasn't until he reached 22 that his speed and technique became proficient enough to begin contract work. "Teaming the right style is critical or you'll never become fast enough to earn a decent crust," he says. "You need an understanding wife, too. I don't see much of mine during summer.

When shearing ends in August, Gwynfor packs away his machines and prepares his chainsaw and axe. For the next four months he will be fencing with his brother for the local farmers, followed by hedge-

Helen Lewis



Oldland Mill sits on a blustery Sussex hill. It is being restored by the 'intrepid eight', all of them pensioners

By Clive Fewins

early 16 years ago eight men began restoring a derelict 17th-century Sussex windmill as a labour of ove. Now they are opening it to the public for the first time. Tomorrow is the second Sunday in May - the annual date when mill enthusiasts throughout the country hope for a good wind and an equally good response from the public as they throw open their doors and put on special events for National Mills Day.

At Oldland Mill, which sits on a blustery hillock near the West Sussex village of Keymer, it will not be quite like that. Tomorrow's visitors will find the skeleton of the mill swathed in scaffolding, erected by the "intrepid eight" (all now retired) just over a year ago. There are no doors to open because the rotten ones, removed many years ago, have yet to be replaced. Lack of funds and heavy equipment has meant slow progress, so the eight have settled for a steady routine, working one day a week (usually a Thursday) throughout he

when we took on the lease from the county archaeological society in 1980 the building had been untouched since a botched restoration in 1938," said the leader, retired engineer John Annett, 72.

"Although the building still had the appearance of a conventional Sussex post mill - a mill which rotates with the prevailing wind round a single post - the timber exterior was falling off and water had seeped in and rotted much of the oak frame that supports the main structure.

The building was last used commercially in 1919 and when the eight started stripping off the wooden cladding the only part they found substantially intact was the 30ft high round post that forms the centre of the mill.

"It is a magnificent piece of timber, probably original, which has some interesting carved graffiti from succeeding carved graffiti from succeeding generations of millers. We have been able to save it and are building the rest of the structure round it," Mr Annett said.

The eight have also been able to save the one-and-a-half tonne 25ft-long cast iron windshaft, which was installed when the mill was converted to steam around 1860.

Supported by the scaffolding, it looks like the giant bowsprit of an old ship. Eventually it will be removed for an overhaul before being re-erected to hold the main brake wheel, which Mr Annett and his team plan to reconstruct. The other giant piece of timber in the

mill is the crown tree, an enormous, horizontal slab of oak that supports the whole weight of the structure of the mill as it rotates on a base of four huge oak timbers that form a trestle at the foot of the building.

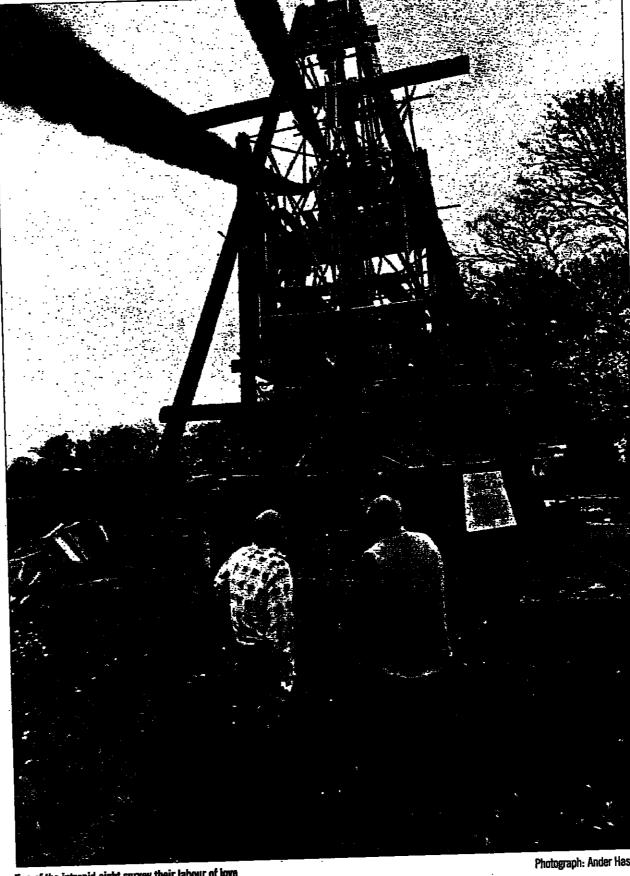
"Raising this was the only task for which we employed a contractor. Our average age is 65 and it was just too much for us, Mr Annett explained.

"However, using a hand winch we have managed to raise two of the oak frames we have built that form the sides of the building. Each weigh about a tonne. "The next task is building and raising

the other two sides of the frame. One of these - the breast frame - will weigh about one and-a-half tonnes, so we might need help again with the lift." Most of the framing is built from a job lot of oak Mr Annett bought in 1982 for

£6,000. The team cut all the joints by hand. They are fixed together by oak pegs that they have also made.
"We hope to get the main frame com-

plete next year, before turning to the machinery, most of which we salvaged and stored, and the four 22ft long sweeps



Two of the intrepid eight survey their labour of love

[sails]," Mr Annett said.

"After that I reckon we have another 10 years ahead of us, making the whole enterprise a 25 year project. By then I calculate that our oldest member will be 92.

We have no problem producing drawings because two of the team have worked extensively on mills before and it is fairly easy to follow the existing structure. Whenever we are in doubt we consult owners of other surviving post

than £18,000, which has been raised ever carrying on in this way keeps us out not own the freehold of the site," Mr

Annett said. "British Telecom generously gave us £1,500, and another company said they would give us £2,000 pounds a year."

Unfortunately after two years they went broke. "I reckon that with one cheque for

The main problem the team faces is £200,000 we could finish the job and be financial. The work has already cost more grinding corn in a couple of years. HowPhotograph: Ander Hasson

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mainly from village coffee mornings and of the pubs and off the streets for at least one day a week..." Oldland Mill can be visited tomorrow:

details from Mr Annett on 01273 843573. Information on other mills (some 200) open for National Mills Day can be obtained from the organisers, the Wind and Watermills Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Telephone 0171-377 1644 for

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The case of the radio-carrying salmon

s the great experiment working, or is it not? That is the question flyfishermen are asking on the River Beauly, north of Inverness - for this is the first spring in which it should be possible to gauge the results of the imaginative re-stocking pro-gramme which was launched four

years ago.

For six centuries the river belonged to the Lovat family, but in May 1990 the fishing rights were bought by the newly-formed Beauly River Fishings Company, which began an ambitious programme of improvement. Part of this was the physical refurbishment of the waternew pools and the clearing of the burns in which salmon spawn.

This certainly seemed to help, for the annual catch leapt up from a 10-year average of 678 to more than double. Cynics may claim that part of the rise was due simply to more intensive fishing, but there is no question that the remedial measures have had a beneficial effect.

A more subtle challenge was to recreate the spring run for which the river used to be famous. Any number of salmon can be caught in June, July and August - but might it be possible to re-build April and river.

May? One fact of life on the Beauly, for good or ill, is the pair of hydro-Their good point, piscatorially and through the dams to the sea,



HART-DAVIS

speaking, is that they conserve vast quantities of water, some of which is constantly being let through, so that even in a drought the river has way, and included the creation of a good flow. The bad point is that they retard the passage of fish upstream, even though they are fitted with lifts which allow salmon to go through.

William Midwood, managing director of the new company, reasoned that the higher up the river a salmon is bred, the earlier it is likely to return from the sea, since it has farther to go to reach the breeding ground which instinct makes it seek out. In June 1992 he therefore arranged for over 100,000 fed fry (baby salmon) hatched from Beauly spawn to be planted in burns far up-

In due course these fry grew into parr, and then into smolts. Those which survived should have been electric dams built in the 1950s. washed downriver, over the falls to the lower chamber.

during 1994. Now the first of them and autumn, some 10,000 salmon should be coming back as two-seawinter salmon.

"Should be" is the operative phrase. As Mr. Midwood points out, "It's tremendously difficult to find out what's actually happening". Although not many fish have been caught yet this spring, everyone agrees that there are more salmon in the river than at this time last year. But whether this is due to the restocking policy, or to factors out at sea, nobody can say.

In an attempt to gain more knowledge, the company hopes to conduct a major radio-tracking experiment through the River Beauly District Fisheries' Board; but this would cost at least sought. Meanwhile, a small-scale radio project has yielded fascinating information about how fish Kilmorack.

Last summer 10 salmon were netted below the dam and fitted with curiosity or irritation? Why, after radios. Three automatic listening several blank sessions, did Mr Midstations monitored their movements: one as they approached from below, another as they entered the bottom chamber of the lift, and a third as they emerged from the top. Of the 10, only four went through, but the monitors revealed that the radiosalmon made more than 1,000 visits

Altogether, during the summer hardly ever bite.

went through the dam. If this figure represents the same ratio as that of the radio-fish (40 per cent), it suggests that there must have been some 15,000 salmon in the river below. It further suggests that the catches now being made in the Beauly as a whole – 1,687 in 1994 and 1,395 last year – are at an easily sustainable level.

What fascinates me is the fact that, in spite of intensive study and the insatiable enthusiasm of experienced fishermen, so much about salmon remains mysterious. How, for instance, do they find their way back to their home river? Experts agree that taste guides them in the final stages, but before that they may £150,000, and a grant is being rely on currents, changes in sea temperature and even a magnetic sense.

It is well established that when approach the main hydro dam at they enter the river, they cease to eat. Why, then, do they sometimes go for an artificial fly? Is it out of wood suddenly catch three in a hour one evening? And why, in particular, did no fish go for my fly in three whole days of casting? Failure cannot have been entirely due to my ham-fistedness.

Even if every salmon in the river carried a radio, I bet we still wouldn't know why it is that the fish will





Clear out the yard, but spare the concrete

WORKSHOP: Gill King and Michael Griffith-Jones want ideas for their courtyard, yet they don't want to lose the stone floor. By Anna Pavord

Our home is a brick (c1914) two-storey warehouse in south London. We would like some ideas of how to treat a walled countyard space, approximately 34ft by 16ft. This is currently a single storey extension to the main building. We plan to remove most of the roof, leaving a shelter nine feet deep at the northwest end and knock out the windows and doors to create arches in the 10ft high wall. It has a concrete floor which we do not propose to take up, although we can break it up in certain areas for drainage purposes. This area is on an east-west axis and is quite overshadowed by largeish trees over which we have little control. We think built-up beds will be necessary and want to

hen Gill King and her partner, Michael Griffith-Jones wrote this letter, they were living in a Portacabin, waiting for builders to finish work on their warehouse, once a ceramic tile works. By the time I caught up with them, they had moved in and the area where the Portacabin had been standing had become another cause for concern. It is beside the extension they talked about in their letter: a rectangle, mostly rubble, roughly 18ft by 10ft filling the northeast corner of their plot and heavily overshadowed by a large sycamore. Not the most propinous spot for planting.

The only earth in the whole place is a thin strip, just four feet wide squeezed in between the outside wall of the extension (which was to become part of the garden) and the tall, battered chain link fence that is their northern boundary. It's just about wide enough to walk down without knocking the corners off your elbows.

Ms King does not mind the lack of earth. "Tve got very attached to our tarmac" she said. "I like the idea that once, huge 40ft lorries backed in and out of this building. We've kept so much of the structure. We don't really want to start digging up the hard surfaces."

Ms King and Mr Griffith-Jones are both social workers in their forties and they want the garden to be a peaceful refuge, a soothing place, with the white noise sound of water burbling in the background and great waves of scent to billow past the seats they have already put in the walled courtyard.

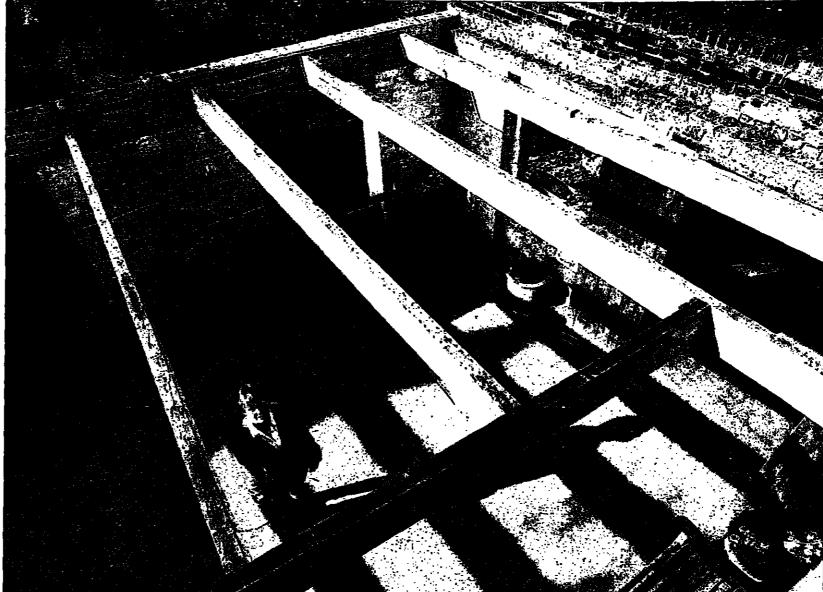
By taking the roof and every other roof joist away from the lean-to extension, they had created a very successful walled-round courtyard with a pergola-like roof. They had taken out the old Crittall windows, leaving three arched openings along the north facing wall. The old, cracked concrete floor was still in situ, but the walls on the inside of the courtyard had been whitewashed, giving the space a curi-

I suggested a rectangular pool in the centre of the courtyard, built to the same proportions as the yard itself. A raised pool would break up the space more effectively than a sunken one, and would be easier and cheaper to build. Faces bright-ened at the thought that the beloved concrete would not have to be sacrificed, but fell when I suggested hedging all the way round the raised pool with box. This would grow up to the level of the water and then be neatly cut across the top, so that the water would look as if it was contained in low

hedges of box, rather than in breeze-block walls. Could the box hedges be planted in troughs, asked Ms King. "No" I said firmly. They could drill a border round the outside of the pool and plant in that. It would still be less trouble than excavating a space big enough for the pool itself. But the look on their faces convinced me they would do nothing of the sort. The pool, with a simple submerged jet in the centre to give the required background noise, would be simple to install. At the end of summer they could fix a net over the top of it to catch the leaves that fall in

huge numbers from the sycamore.

On the outside of the courtyard where the thin strip of earth runs between the wall and the chain-link boundary fence, Ms King and Mr Griffiths-Jones had dug big planting pits underneath each of the windows, and had already set Clematis moneans in each of them. They had those different kinds. tana in each of them. They had three different kinds: 'Tetrarose' which has big lilac-rose flowers, 'Elizabeth', which smells of chocolate and the more deeply coloured 'Pink



Jill King: 'I've

Perfection'. If I had been choosing, I would have spread the flowering times of the three clematis more widely by choosing just one Montana, with a Macropetala clematis for early

spring and a Jackmanii type for high summer.
Set on the outside of the courtyard wall, the plants faced north. But if the stems were led in through the window spaces, they could be trained up the inside south-facing aspect of the wall, where they would not only flower better, but be more easily seen by Ms King and Mr Griffith-Jones. When the clematis are large enough, they could scramble along the open pergola-like roof joists.

the only earth these two gardeners have they need to make the most of it. I suggested vines such as Vitis coignetiae which could cope with the shade cast by the sycamore, Vitis vinifera 'Purpurea' and a rumclematis. For late summer, they could try white-flowered solanum, and in the summiest spot, the tropical looking climber Campsis x tagliabuana 'Mme Galen'. The vines would give a feeling of luxuriant leafiness. The clematis, rose and solanum would add colour. The campsis has foliage as good as its brilliant orange trumpet flowers. All could be

trained through the window arches and up the inside courtyard wall to the roof beams.

Inside the courtyard building, Ms King and Mr Griffith-Jones had terracotta tubs formally planted with pairs of spiky mahonias, yellow-flowered fremontodendron and Magnolia grandiflora, the big-leaved evergeen bull bay that comes from the Florida swamps. They aren't adapted to life in containers, but in the short term, they may be happy enough, especially if the watering system Mr Griffith-Jones talked about is installed. They will all need regular feeding. I find Osmacote slow release granules the easiest and best method of feed-

ing. Used in spring, they provide food for the next six months. If they built a raised bed along the far east-facing wall of the courtyard, Ms King and Mr Griffith-Jones would make life easier for their plants. They would also give thembustious rose such as the white, cluster-flowered 'Rambling selves room to build up satisfying plant groups - difficult Rector'. It only flowers once, but then so do the Montana in an 18in container. But it would mean drilling holes for drainage in the concrete at the bottom of the raised beds. Although I dared not suggest it, I would then cover the concrete throughout the courtyard with creamy gravel, making sure I had cracked up enough of it underneath to allow

flowers such as erigerons and violas to self-seed. The space outside the courtyard was more difficult to

Photo: Nick resolve, overhung and dripped on by the sycamore. But since Mr Griffith-Jones seemed to like formal arrangements I sug-

Neither of them wanted to remove the rubble here, so the plants would have to cope with shade, drought, and starvation. If they could be started off in pockets of good earth, excavated in the rubble, they would have at least a fighting chance of survival. Dark-leaved bugle, arums with marbled leaves (Arum italicum 'Pictum'), epimediums with good foliage on thin wiry stems, creeping lamiums, pink and white purple-leaved Viola labradorica (or even the bullying yellow flowered), tellima and spotty-leaved pulmonaria would all be worth trying. Once planted, they could be left to weave themselves together into a low Persian carpet of changing leaf and flower. Small ferns such as Polypodium vulgare 'Cornubiense' might survive too.

gested dividing the space visually into two squares by stand-

ing a bay tree in a pot in each of the two halves of the long

But I am worried about those magnolias, which are programmed to grow into massive stately trees, at least 15ft high, 10ft wide. I can imagine their roots soon banging against the sides of their pots shouting "Help! Let me out." I hope Ms King and Mr Griffith-Jones will be able to hear them.

Back to the drawing board

Botanists still prefer paintings to photographs. Charlotte Packer rediscovers an intricate art

any people regard botanical art as a genre which started at some point in the 15th century, reached its peak with the works of Johann Jakob Walther, Redoute and Ehret, and died at some point early this century - its usefulness eclipsed by the immediacy and accuracy of photography. Not so. Botanical art has not only survived, but is actually thriving, and the genre as a whole is currently enjoying something of a renaissance - as the current exhibition of the Shirley Sherwood Collection at Kew Gardens Gallery in London makes clear.

The plants and flowers represented in the show are analysed petal by petal, stamen by stamen; each minute hair annotated. Colours are built up through washes until the exact pink, red or green is achieved. While the dedication of these artists is all very laudable, and their illustrations remarkable, is their work really necessary? Wouldn't a photograph be a faster, more accurate, and certainly more cost effective means of recording organisms which often die before the artist's paint has dried, and sometimes long before the study is even finished?

The advantage of the artist's eye over the camera becomes obvious the moment you look closely at any of the works in Dr Sherwood's collection. No camera could record the detail required by botanists, and captured by the artists. Thus botanical illustration is an essential means of plant identification, and is regarded as an important scientific tool: "The photograph will give you a very good idea of a plant's habitat," explains Dr Sherwood. "But when it comes to the nitty gritty, a botanist will always consult a drawing." The key to any botanical illustration, she says, is the quality of the specimen recorded, and a good botanical artist will go to any lengths to get that perfect specimen. The lavishly illustrated book which accompanies the exhibition is filled with tales of bulbs that died, plants



rellîa 'Paul Jones Supreme'

that wilted or in the case of Paul Jones - who has dedicated his powers of observation and drawing to the camellia - the commission scuppered by a member of the public who unwittingly picked the choice flower and bud he was planning to paint. The commission had to wait a year until the plant was next in bloom.

For many years there has been no real market for contemporary botanical art beyond the academic: at Kew. for example, there are at least a quarter of a million extraordinary studies of the rare and the common-place, all beautifully and faithfully executed (the majority for scientific and horticultural publications), but then consigned to folios where they will be looked at by a couple of hundred pairs of eyes at the most. A meagre reward for such lonely

and exacting work. However the fortunes of the botanical artist have begun to change. The Kew Gardens Gallery shares its treasures with the public, mounting at least two exhibitions a year since its foundation in 1988. While Kew's efforts have met with approval from artists and public alike, Dr Sherwood, botanical artist manqué, has been the real force behind moving late 20th century botanical illustration beyond the realms of science and into the art world. Her unrivalled collection, built up over the last six years, has made the works of contemporary artists in this field available to a wider, and hugely receptive lay audience.

> Botanical Artists: The Shirley Sherwood Collection is available in paperback from Kew Gardens (£12.99) or in hardback from bookshops (£40). The exhibition at Kew Gardens runs until 2 June.

CUTTINGS

The Savill Garden, now at its spring peak, is holding a Plant Fair today (10am-5.30pm). Many specialist nurseries will be selling plants and there will also be old gardening books for sale. Entrance is via Wick Lane, Englefield Green, off the A30, on the edge of Windsor Great Park. Admission £3.50.

Plant Heritage's Yorkshire Group are holding their Spring Plant Fair tomorrow (11am-4pm) in the old riding school

at Hovingham Hall, Malton. Alpines, herbaceous perennials, trees, shrubs, clematis, ferns, violas and plants for ponds will be on sale as well as pots from Bessingby Pottery. The garden, with 18th-century dovecote, will also be open. Admission £2.

Ihen Marshalls first started selling veg-Wetable starter plants, two years ago. they offered just six. Now there are 18 to

of cabbages, three cauliflowers (£2.85 for 15), two sorts of Brussel sprouts (£2.35 for 15), pink or white celery (£2.45 for 15), autumn and winter leeks (£1.95 for 25), broccoli (£2.35 for 15) and celeriac (£2.45 for 15). The greenhouse collection has already sold out, but Marshalls can send out plants of the other, outdoor vegetables until the end of May. Minimum order, four varieties. Order from S E Marshall & Co Ltd, Wisbech, Cambs choose from, including six different kinds PE13 2RF (01945 583407).

Weekend Work

Set celery plants in trenches into the bottom of which you have put plenty of muck or compost, covered by soil. Plants should be about a foot apart in double rows about nine inches apart down the sides of the trench.

Sow sweetcorn in a warm, sheltered spot outside. Set the seeds in a grid

about 18in apart to help pollination. Sow beetroot, sprouting broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbages and carrots, Hoe between rows of onion sets to chivvy weed seedlings. Pinch out sides hoots of greenhouse tomatoes and feed regularly. Sow cucumbers, marrows and melons inside or in a

greenhouse, setting a single seed in a three-inch pot. Cover the pots with

newspaper until the seedlings emerge. Cut back over ambitious evergreens such as spotty laurel (Aucuba japonica) and plain laurel (Prunus laurocerasus). New shoots will soon spring from the

gardening

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I am compiling a selection of good garden centres and nurseries in the Greater London area for a guide book to be published soon. I would be interested in any

Where they can't build fast enough

The north-east is booming. So are developers — and they're running out of properties. By Mary Wilson

the largest commercial development outside London; and at the moment 67 companies are planning to move to North Tyneside. Small woncountry. The only fly in the ointment is that Newcastle didn't win the Premier League.

Companies such as Bryant, Bellway, Persimmon and Barratt are building as fast as they can. Newcastle itself has always had a fairly small housing stock and with a population of only 250,000 has had a relatively stable housing market. "Since the crash, we have not seen huge drops in prices, nor savage examples of negative equity" says Peter Hepburn of Black-

Bryant Homes, which intends to double its output every other year in the north-east, is seeing a substantial rise in sales. Susan Latimer, regional sales manager says, "We are right out of built homes at the moment. We have had such a good last three months that everything is sold. It is very good news and we are putting up prices at some of the better sites."

Prices in some parts of Newcastle - Gosforth and Jesmond - are now very similar to those in London. Other popular residential areas are Darras Hall and Ponteland, although a core of wealthy families have recently moved out even further to Corbridge, which is now haif an hour from Newcastle on the dual-carriage A69. Malcolm Weinberg of GA Property Services

he north-east of Britain is currently an moved up to Ponteland from London three years area of superlatives. Newcastle will have ago with his wife Gillian and two teenage the largest Marks & Spencer in Britain, once the present one has doubled in size, its MetroCentre is Europe's most profitable retail mall; North Shields has and I have become keen Newcastle United supporting the profit of the tirst six months, but after that we all settled in well. The girls have made close friends and Gillian and I have become keen Newcastle United supporting the profit of the tirst six months, but after that we all settled in well. and I have become keen Newcastle United sup-porters. Neither of us even liked football before.

Newcastle is a very convenient city, it is very self-contained with everything you want within der that the north-east has the highest rate of new house building than any other region in the restaurants and theatres. We moved into a bigger house with more land than we could have afforded in London, and are virtually in the countryside."

The demand for three-bedroom semis and four-bedroom detached houses is growing rapidly. David Wellstead of Countrylife Homes, who himself moved up from London 30 years ago, is keenly aware of this. "My company is usually involved in commercial ventures, but I saw there was a gap in the market for high-spec executive houses in small villages within com-muting distance of Newcastle," he says. At Shotley Bridge, a village 10 minutes from

Newcastle, he is building nine three- to fivebedroom houses in local stone with slate roofs and walled gardens sloping down to the River Derwent. The timber-framed houses have huge living rooms and dining rooms with central inglenook fireplaces. Prices range from £150,000 to £269,000.

In the second-hand market, it is also the larger homes which are being snapped up. GA Property Services, which has 15 branches in the area, cannot find enough good houses to sell. "We have done nearly a year's business in the first quarter of 1996," says Duncan Young, area once it is joined up by a walkway to Quayside.



£30m St Peter's Marina development, launched by Barratt with the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation

going up in value by 20 per cent on six months ago. There is quite a shortage of these and what we really need is more good quality new fam-

One of the nicest period properties GA has just put on the market is Dissington Garden House, near Dalton. This four-bedroom, early 19th-century house is in the midst of farming land, has five acres with a large walled garden and is on the market for £550,000.

Barratt launched its £30 million St Peter's Marina development on the river Tyne in partnership with Tyne and Wear Development Corporation in 1987. Although this development of 361 homes is still a little out on a limb, it will become more integrated with the city sales director. "Some of the better houses are This waterfront area is being developed into a

a hotel, leisure facilities and restaurants. Barratt has started work on six new developments in the area which will create around 600 homes. "Prospects for the housing market in the north-east are brighter now than at any time during the past two years" says Mike Norton, Barratt Northern Chairman. "Our sales revenue is running seven per cent ahead of last year and the huge investments by the likes of Siemens and Samsung are going a long way to dispel any lack of confidence."

> Barratt, 0345 626364; Bellway Homes, 0191-217 0717; Blackhorse Agencies, 0191-218 0744; Bryant Homes, 0191-273 2783; Countrylife Homes, 01207 545945; GA Property Services, 0191-284 5761.

Househunter

Bushy Park in Enniskerry, Co Wicklow



This has had a number of notable owners. It once belonged to William Parnell, who opposed the union between Ireland and Britain back in the early 1800s and later the house was owned by the "hanging judge", Judge Keogh. Bushy Park, which has 22 acres and is 13 miles from Dublin, will be auctioned on Tuesday 28 May by Hamilton Osborne King. It has eight bedrooms and three main reception rooms, superb grounds with coach house and stabling, a house and two cottages. "We have had some good home-based enquiries, but we believe that there will be a high level of interest from abroad. particularly from England and Germany" says Hugh Hamilton. (00 353 1 6760251).

For What Its Worth

bere is evidence of increased demand for prime central London properties according to Wetherell. The estate agent reports that this is particularly the case in the £50,000 to £2m price range. Wetherell says this is borne out by the current trend for offmarket deals which in their experience in the last six months amount to about 30 per cent of all transactions in the Mayfair area.

This might provide some cause for concern for agents; not so Wetherell. Because of the difficulty of finding the right property on the market (not helped by this predilection by vendors to sell quietly and privately), the agent has also had a 250 per cent increase in the number of applicants who are prepared to retain them in the acquisition of properties. Wetherell has been helping these clients buy properties whether on or off the open market.

Blots on the landscape: the caravan sites that became shanty towns

Because of a loophole in planning regulations, mobile home parks have sprung up in protected beautry spots. By Amanda Seidl'

home parks can be unsightly shanty towns that are outside normal planning regulations. And because of a loophole in the law, they have sprung up in protected beauty spots where any form of housing development would be out of the question.

To the untrained eye there is little obvious difference between a bungalow and a top-of-the-range park home, with its bay windows and tiled roof. Wheels and mitted or is prohibitively expensive. supports are tastefully hidden behind a brick wall, while inside, fireplaces and fit-

second-hand homes can be found for around £20,000.

According to the British Holiday & Home Parks Association, around 205,000 people - 80 per cent of them retired live on mobile home parks in Britain. The appeal lies not just in the price, but in the location of many parks in unspoilt rural and coastal surroundings where housing development is either not per-

Planning laws only recognised caravan sites as a development control issue in ted kitchen give no clue to the home's 1960. But caravan parks established

obile homes generally have a bad press. This is partly down to the association with illegal gypsy camps, building sites and sprawling senside caravan sites. At worst, mobile senside caravan sites and surrounded by the forest.

The definition of a site of their home and the right to sell it on or leave it to certain members of their sites designated for holiday caravans to senside caravan sites. At worst, mobile senside caravan sites. At worst, mobile senside caravan sites and surrounded by the Forest.

The foreign to conform to the season is price and because the definition of a avan site had been little used, but it had an open-ended consent so the council (NFDC). "The caravan site had been little used, but it had an open-ended consent so the council of the right to sell it on or leave it to certain members of their was underlying to conform to the set sended consent so the council of the representation of the season is price and surrounded by the Forest.

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So why not build a bungalow and be discovered to the definition of a avan site had been little used, but it had an open-ended consent so the council of the season is price as and surrounded by the Forest.

For those willing to conform to the season is price as and surrounded by the Forest.

So why not build a bungalow and be discovered to the sea and surrounded by the Forest.

So why not build a bungalow and be developed as permanent village close to the avan site had been little used, but it had an open-ended consent so the council of the result of the sea and surrounded by the Forest.

For those willing to conform to the sea and surrounded by the Forest.

So why not build a bungalow and be developed as the definition of a avan site had been little used, but it had an open-ended cons mobile home parks without additional planning permission.

In the New Forest, just such a development recently raised a storm of local protest when a field in the green belt near Lymington was bought by park home manufacturers. Wonderland Homes, for the development of an estate of 64 residential mobile homes. What had been a field with half a

dozen caravans hidden behind a hedge has now been turned into a small housing estate," explains Michael Stilton, head of development control at New For-

Pat Packer, marketing manager of Wonderland, believes that the quality of Knighterest Park will overcome anxieties about its impact on the environment. "We have a quality award from the National Park Homes Council, so that governs the standard of landscaping," she says.

Like most park home estates, Knightcrest is aimed at retired couples and has strict regulations controlling pets, traffic and noise. Residents may not use their park homes for business purposes or let them out and children are absolutely forbidden. The objective is to create a

£83,000 for a two-bed, two-bathroom luxuriously appointed mobile home. The price includes a 99-year lease on a private landscaped plot complete with shed and paved driveway. Compared to park homes in other parts of the country this is expensive, but Mrs Packer points out that the price is roughly half the cost of a two-bedroom bungalow in the area.

Landowners have complete control over their private residential enclave, a situation that sometimes led to abuse of power before the introduction of the Mobile Homes Act in 1983. Mobile home

Most councils now treat applications for residential mobile home sites as they would a housing development application. But there is still a significant difference in the amount of control planners can exercise over caravan sites.

"If we get an application for 12 houses, we know what the houses will look like and where they will be built on the site," explains Mr Stilton of NFDC. "But on a residential caravan site the only rules governing lay-out and density of use are those imposed by health and

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The trials and tribulations of being a late 20th-century royal portraitist

The unveiling of a recent portrait of the Queen provides a good case in point. The picture shows an elderly but dignified woman, with age-battered hands (has she been biting those nails?) and an expression of contemplative melancholy. It is very far from unsympathetic but it is decidedly unregal and, for royalist critics, it has had much the same effect as

Queen resembles "a pensioner about to lose her bungalow". He was indignant about this but, though this is a bathetic description of the Queen in her present travails, it is not, surely, an entirely inaccurate one. The analogy has some

Portraits of the powerful are always revealing, if not because of the images force. She is getting old and she can't be sure that she will pass on to her children they contain, then for the reaction what she now possesses by right. For the artist, and even for some royalist portraitviewers (Bill Deedes in the Telegraph, for example), this was to be counted in the picture's favour. It is a plea for sympathy, a reminder that the monarch is a woman too and might, indeed, have sentiments in common with a pensioner in a bungalow.

For both Brian Sewell and Lord St John of Fawsley (foppus obsequiosus), this misses the point of royal portraiture, poking a stick into a wasps' nest.

Brian Sewell (foppus petulans) put his elegant, unchewed finger on the central at all, but instead the strange amalgam of individual and institution which makes problem when he protested that the of individual and institution which makes up a monarch. More than that, to paint out the details that might interrupt our sense of majesty. "The Queen is not an ordinary woman," says Sewell firmly, "not one of us," which (taken out of context like this) has a certain revealing



SUTCLIFFE

harshness to it. Sympathy for a monarch is one thing, fellow-feeling quite another. Lord St John, the Malvolio of Emmanuel College, is more unctuous: "It hasn't got the essence of the Queen, which is a screnity, benevolence and a happiness."

Come again? These might be qualities he would wish for the monarch but, by her own confession, they have been a bit thin on the ground recently. So, if the picperfectly good reasons for that. Intriguingly, the Queen appears to be wearing a cloak rather similar to that which she

sports in Annigoni's shamelessly flatter- of inner character. The result was gening depiction of a regal figurehead – as uinely startling – something like if Anthony Williams wished to refer back to that reverent image and show us how hated make-overs – but I don't think far we had come.

This isn't the only recent fuss over the

depiction of the powerful. When RB Kifaj's recent portrait of President Clin-ton was unveiled at University College there was, according to some reports, a stunned two-second silence. We should take this with a pinch of salt, I think unveilings traditionally demand a moment of contemplation and two seconds hardly sounds excessive. But looking at the image, you could see that the assembled dignitaries might have had trouble working out what to say next. The artist, granted an hour's sketching time ture is a portrait horribilis, there may be perfectly good reasons for that. Intriguof portrait - an image of power and determination rather than a revelation

there's any doubting the sincerity of its attempt at respect. Kitaj voted for Clinton and wrote rather touchingly of his excitement at being in his presence. The result might have looked like a caricature but it was one with obedient

rather than insurrectionary motives. Both pictures demonstrate the uneasy dilemma that faces any good artist painting a portrait of someone with power. It is essentially a problem of divided fidelity - is the artist to be true to Queen and country, or true to life? For Holbein, I doubt if this was quite such a difficult opposition, if it arose at all. Even though it is now conventional to read his portrait of Henry VIII as a covert revelation of brutal state power, it's unlikely that he consciously took the risk at the time. words, he owed to his monarch.

Tastes change in faces as they do in clothes and this massive figure, with his broad, resolute features, probably gave the client exactly what he wanted, an idealised vision of unassailable vigour. He is his own bodyguard, a bouncer planted before the throne.

For a modern painter, though, truth has come to be associated with weakness and vulnerability, with the scrupulous evasion of vanity. Honesty trades in the currency of what we would rather not confess. The ascendancy of psychological recognition as the final arbiter of artistic truth effectively means that a portrait which does not bring the great down to our level is in danger of being perceived either as a failure or a fraud. "They were like that!" exclaimed Anthony Williams, defending those controversial hands in this paper. In other words, he owed his loyalty to his art, not

Can we have your marks, please, Oslo

Norwegians take the Eurovision Song Contest very seriously indeed. James Rampton reports from a country in the grip of Europop mania

magine having someone like Cliff Richard or Sandie Shaw in the Cabinet. In Norway, they do. Ase Kleveland, a statuesque fortysomething in a leather three-piece, is Norway's Minister of Cultural Affairs. She is also, like Sir Cliff and Sandie, a former competitor in the Eurovision Song Contest, coming third as a 16-year-old with "Intet nytt under solen" ("Nothing New Under the Sun") in 1966. Her subsequent rise to power is just one indication of the awe in which Norwegians hold the Contest.

Norway, which hosts the contest next Saturday, is in the grip of Eurovision fever. Picture the FA Cup Final fervour in Liverpool or Manchester this morning, then double it, and you're some way to grasping the extent of the Norwegian passion for Eurovision. In other parts of Europe, it may be a rather comical competition between people with bad hair crooning different variations on the lyric "bing, bing, a-bong", but in Norway it is a vital assertion of national identity. They visibly bridle at suggestions that they are best known to the rest of the continent for a record-equalling run of nul points. Jahn Teigen, who netted two out of the country's three zero scores, has become a national hero in

People thronged the streets waving flags and tooting car-horns on the night Norway won last year with "Nocturne"; it was like Rio when Brazil took the World Cup in 1994. This year NRK, the state broadcasters, expect more than see if they can repeat the feat. The contest annually attracts gramme in Norway. There has recently been a hotel strike in Oslo and locals were calling in, unbidden, to offer Eurovision competitors and delegates accommodation in their homes. A Eurovision Internet home page is being called up by 2,000 people a day. The 6,500 tickets for the ceremony at the Oslo Spektrum Theatre sold out in two hours, and NRK has also filled the house for the two dress rehearsals.

Kato Hansen, a neat, bespectacled translator who moonlights as president of the 150-strong Norwegian Song Contest fan club, thinks he's died and gone to Eurovision heaven. Taking periodic breaks from editing the Eurovision book, which lists every song since the competition's inception in 1956, he is entertaining journalists from all the over the globe in his immaculate central Oslo flat, which houses the world's most comprehensive collection of Eurovision memorabilia. He has a recording of every single contest - something not even the BBC possesses - and can reel off stats with the unerring accuracy of a Speak-Your-Weight machine. A man who would not look out of place at a trainspotters' convention, he reveals that Nana Mouskouri sang for Luxembourg in 1963 - "she came eighth" - before telling me that the official count of 138 la la la's in Spain's winning 1968 entry - entitled, you guessed it, "La La La" - is incorrect

because the singer unexpectedly repeated one verse.

Although indignant that Terry Wogan's commentaries have "turned the Eurovision into a laughing matter in Britain", Hansen still manages to smile when assessing his own approach. "I do worry that it's taking over my life. I'm an academic, I know I'm not supposed to like the Eurovision, but it's about not giving in to the pressure to hate it because it's not politically correct. It's a question of not growing up, of allowing yourself the joy of remembering the fun

you had when you watched your first contest." The Norwegian Folk Museum at Bygdoy outside Oslo where last year's winner, Gunnhild Tvinnrein, dresses up in national costume and works as a guide - is also rubbing its hands at the prospect of the contest. It has mounted a Eurovision exhibition which is attracting cult followers like a Star Trek convention. The displays include the original pink pyjama suit worn by Kleveland in 1966. "This used to be a very conservative country," she recalls, "and my grandmother was very upset. She thought my pink pyjamas brought shame on the family." On the wall of the museum is pinned a quote from a Norwegian remembering the first time Norway entered the Contest in 1960: "Eurovision was like Christmas Eve. No one was on the streets. It was a free evening

So what is it about this arcane parade of terrible trousers and even worse tunes that so captivates the Norwegians? Your marks, please, Oslo. "The popularity of the Eurovision Song Contest is inversely proportionate to the size of the country." Hansen contends. "For Norwegians it's a way of seeing how we do on the international stage. Italy, France, Germany and the UK don't need that kind of confirmation because they already know that they're important."

Kleveland - a lookalike for the actress Shirley Anne Field greets me in her spacious, wood-panelled sixth-floor office at the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in the heart of Oslo. Pushing aside a pile of state documents on her huge desk (not quite in the Michael Heseltine league, but getting there), she attempts to explain Norway's magnificent obsession with the Eurovision Song Contest. "It holds a very special place in the hearts of Norwegians because the interest is always greatest in the smaller nations, those countries which have an urge to show we can compete with bigger nations. For instance, there are suddenly a bunch of nations from Eastern Europe with a need to present themselves as able to compete with Western countries [this year's Eastern Bloc minnows are Estonial. We don't really mind as long as we beat the Swedes." There was a diplomatic incident last year when the Swedish jury gave no points to the Norwegian song which went on to win. The Swedish ambassador in Oslo was

obliged to apologise to the Norwegian people for slighting

A completely random sample of opinion in an Oslo bar the same evening confirms the significance of Eurovision to the Norwegians. Anna, a marketing manager with a shamingly good grasp of English, reckons that "in Norway, it is still a big deal. We do actually sit there and vote. Norwegians take themselves too seriously. If we could take a more satirical, more British attitude to it, it would be better. The problem is we're quite nationalistic." Anyone who remembers the tide of patriotic emotion that swept many Norwegians to victory in the 1992 Lillehammer Winter Olympics

Anna's companion, a civil engineer called Axel, takes up the theme. "We're not happy about having Europe dictate to us on anything – fishing policy, for instance. Norway has an inferiority complex because it's quite a new nation. [It ouly gained its independence in 1905 after five centuries of foreign rule]. We said 'no' to the EU in a referendum in 1994 because we felt we could do better on our own, without foreigners."

The Song Contest is an opportunity for Norway to present itself to the world as something more than just a country of fjords and flags. When Bobbysocks, the Norwegian duo, won in 1985 with "La det swinge" ("Let It Swing"), the Prime Minister held a state dinner for all Oslo's diplo-80 per cent of the population to tune into the ceremony to matic corps in their honour, and they gained a government marketing award for their services to exports.

NRK's nerve-centre on the outskirts of Osi

up for the Big Night under the auspices of the executive producer of the Contest, the splendidly named Odd Arvid Stromstad, a stubbly man with rock-star looks who might also be known as "Mr Eurovision". He shows me a model of the set for the contest - a hockey-pitch-sized, hi-tech mock-up of an oil rig, Norway's major industry. 'At the Olympics," he reflects, "you saw Norwegians as a strange people waving flags and wearing red national costumes. It was very folkloric. We're giving Norway a more modern image of a country good at providing equipment for the oil and electricity industries."

Kleveland agrees. "It's important to show we don't just play around in mountains and believe in trolls. We're a modern welfare state, and for 25 years we've been an oil and gas nation." Lars Otto Wollum, Eurovision's information advisor, asserts that the contest "is more socio-politically important than we realise".

Morten Harket - this year's co-presenter (with NRK's Washington correspondent, Ingvild Bryn) and the former lead singer with what is perhaps Norway's biggest export after oil, the pop group A-ha - evidently agrees. He maintains that the contest is "a step forward at the negotiating table. It does help with European unity."

Kleveland wouldn't go that far, but she is keenly aware of the PR benefits to Norway of a show broadcast to more than 300 million people in 42 countries (including South Africa, Australia and South Korea). All for a budget of just £4m. "People's memories are very short," she muses. "We are a nation of four million people, so the funding to pro-mote ourselves in the world is limited. If we had to buy the promotional package we're getting from the Eurovision, we could never afford it."

As we tot up the promotional marks for Norway, the country is very much in credit. "There's so much negativity from the media about Eurovision," Hansen protests. "It's like the West End theatre critics in London - they kill for pleasure. There's a stigma about the Eurovision Song Contest, a journalistic cliché that says it is per se bad quality. Maybe it's a case of political correctness. But the attraction of the contest is its excitement. Critics should acknowledge that."

Kleveland is equally robust. "In spite of all the criticism – not least from British journalists – you haven't been able to kill the Eurovision Song Contest. It's about innocence, fun and competition. Everyone sits at home giving points. Just as many mark the performers for their dresses as for their songs - that emphasises what it's all about."

She hopes the love affair between Norway and the Eurovision Song Contest continues to blossom. "Norway is really interested in music," she enthuses. "Everyone sings in a choir. On our National Day, we will have 110,000 kids playing in brass bands. It's a very strange country.

The Eurovision Song Contest will be broadcast from Oslo on BBC1 at 8pm next Saturday night.





Future cabinet material? Cliff Richard, top, who came a close second in 1968 with 'Congratulations' Asa Xieveland, above, the current Norwegian Minister for Culture, as she looked way back in the 1966 contest This year's presenters, right, Inguild Bryn and Morten Harket from A-Ha, Norway's biggest pop export





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CLASSICAL

Evgeny Kissin Royal Festival Hall, London

There was a buzz in the hall - and it wasn't just excitement. By Adrian Jack

fearly half of Evgeny Kissin's piano recital early half of Evgeny Missin's plane rection at the Royal Festival Hall on Wednesday evening duplicated the programme of his latest CD, recorded last year. Perhaps that contributed to a sell-out, although worship of the 25-year-old phenomenon has been growing apace in this country, fuelled by earlier recordings and two previous London recitals, both

This was not such a happy occasion. At the end of the Bach-Busoni Chaconne, pushed for volume further than a rather tinny-sounding piano could support, a high-pitched whine announced that someone had probably not adjusted their hearing-aid. It persisted all the way through Schumann's Fantasia, like a malicious experiment in aversion therapy. It's a mystery that Kissin never seemed to notice it. though he had an accident at the very beginning, which might have given him an excuse to walk off and get the problem sorted out. So far as one could judge in the circumstances, his performance was full of wonderful things, though he streamlined the jumps at the end of the middle movement so that the rhythmic detail and any sense of excitement were lost.

After the interval, an apologetic announcement was made and, fortunately, the problem didn't recur. Beethoven's "Moonlight" Sonata brought the house down, if only because the last movement was whipped into a whirlwind that would have satisfied even Liszt's cravings for explosive sonorities. But there were plenty of those to come, from Liszt himself. The piano fairly rattled at the end of "Harmonies du soir", though it survived for a pummelling, in "Wilde Jagd", as merciless as it can ever have had to bear. Even the delicate, quicksilver vision of

"Feux-follets" took on a savage edge.
It would have been good if Kissin had offered some relief, some sign of subtler feeling in his encores. Instead, he played to the gallery, with Liszt's vulgarly overblown arrange-ment of Schumann's exquisite song, Frühlingsnacht, then a Perpetuum mobile by Carl Maria von Weber, played much louder than the composer himself can ever have imagined, and finally, Tausig's version of Schubert's Marche militaire, with added and finally. militaire, with added cannon effects. As we came, somewhat stunned, out of the hall, there was a resounding retort to the whole spectacle in the form of a rave party under Waterloo arches, which sounded like a full-scale military operation.

Evgeny Kissin plays Rachmaninov's Plano Concerto No 3 with the Philharmonia Orchestra / Yevgeny Svetlanov: 8pm 4 June Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333) and 7.30pm 5 June Berbican Hall, London (0171-638 8891)

THEATRE Misfits, Royal Exchange, Manchester

It has all the right ingredients: Gable, Huston, and bickering Arthur and Marilyn. So why is the staging of the 1960 film's traumatic birth so dire, asks Paul Taylor



Lisa Eichhorn as Marilyn Monroe and James Clyde as Montgomery Clift in the misshapen 'Misfits

he craze lately has been for stage versions of films (Les Enfants or bite and leaves you wondering what it was Finlayson wanted du Paradis, La Dolce Vita et al.). In Misfits, premiered now in to say through this famous story. In the final scene, set on the darka production by Gregory Hersov at the Royal Exchange, Alex Finlayson goes one step back, creating a play about the making

To ambulance-chasers, The Misfus (shot in 1960 and released the following year) is certainly a more interesting proposition off-camera than on. There's Marilyn Monroe "so doped she doesn't know her ass from a day-old doughnut" (in the words of Finlayson's characters) and arriving on set with a lateness that would make Godot seem almost neurotically punctual. There are the protracted death throes of her marriage to the film's author, Arthur Miller, and his bitter power-struggle with her black-garbed method-acting guru, Paula Strasberg, whose idea of constructive advice on the reading of a line went something like "walk through all those little sadnesses rubbing at your ankles, calling your name".

Then there are the co-stars: Clark Gable (whom Monroe once

believed to be her father) and Montgomery Clift, gay and in a state because of a recent disfiguring car accident; a volatile mix, par-ticularly in the baking heat of the Nevada Desert. It's no wonder that the director, John Huston, took to spending his nights at the gambling tables, knocking back whiskey and losing thousands of dollars, as the film lurched to an eventual 40 days over-schedule. Could you make a boring play from this material? Only too easily, it seems. Misfits is bitty, unaccumulative, lacks either energy

ening sound-stage at the end of the shoot, Marilyn (successfully evoked by Lisa Eichhorn) tells Miller how she would have written his character, if he could have taken it. The implication is that it can be less selfish to receive and that, in his excessive concern to create the role of Roslyn for her in the movie, Miller neglected her by neglecting to want things from her. The trouble is, though, that the play never sufficiently establishes that this role was constructed as a gift or that, through it, Miller was wishfully trying to make what comes true for the character come true for his wife. This will be even less clear to those who have not seen the film or read Miller's odiously self-serving account of the period in

Finlayson offers remarkably few fresh insights into the problem of being, or being with, Monroe and there are some terrible wallowings in cliché, especially during the scene where the star is joined in a hospital room by her former selves: a frightened little blonde girl and a pre-peroxide Norma Jean who gives her a pep talk: "Grow up. Nobody's your father or your mother. Who needs them? We got the camera." I'm ready for my sick bag, Mr De Mille. A talented cast of 17 has been assembled for what I'm afraid has more merit as a job creation scheme than as a play.

To 1 June. Booking: 0161-833 9833

CLASSICAL

Evelyn Glennie QEH, London

Wild antics from a woman and her marimba. By Nicholas Williams

volution may have led to the aardvark and the octopus, but it can certainly deny any claim on Evelyn Glennie's marimba. Standing centre stage during her South Bank recital on Wednesday, this was a factor of marini by chief and marini by chief and marini area. day, this rare beast with its cluster of metal resonators looked like the piping of a mobile air-conditioning unit, or an exhibit from the Saatchi gallery.

Come to think of it, Glennie's show had little

to do with nature, much with art and artifice. Running and jumping, singing and miming, her antics came close to the Chinese State Circus in style and the Théâtre de Complicité in taste. It's a class act: the lighting, staging and mix of high- and low-brow: were perfectly judged to please. Even her deportment, casual yet assured, showed none of the stiffness seen even among seasoned performers.

And yet, for all the hype, her playing, though surely honed by hours of learning and practice, is most astounding in its sense of spontaneity and improvised freedom. From the spoken introductions that punctuated the concert, one got the sense that this applied to her pieces as well. For example, to the American composer David Lang's marimba arrangement of John Kay's Born to he Wild she added frog-mouthed cowbells and homemade cymbals drilled through with screws, while chanting the words in a gruff mezzo register to make a striking end to the first half. Like the con-cluding slapstick item, Django Bates's My Dream Kitchen, that's bound to amuse audiences throughout the country as she begins a national tour. There's no lack of challenging new or recent music: pieces for percussion that 30 years ago would never have been written and even now would be orphans without the succour of an Evelyn Glennie recital.

One such was the opening number for pitched drums, triangles and cymbals, David Horne's Reaching Out. The idea of the sponsor, BT, that the piece should gradually extend to all the instruments of the ensemble in the way that telecommunications have reached out to the Scottish islands seemed a dubious construct, but no matter; the work's musical logic was enough to justify its place in the programme. Likewise, Glennie's own iCadenza! for a quartet of pitched drums and a variety of stick and hand effects, and Kevin Volans's She Who Sleeps with a Small Blanket were worthy additions to the percussion repertoire.

But the soul of the evening remained that marimba, heard to magical effect in the hushed, tremulous chords of Andrew Thomas's Merlin and in Keiko Abe's whimsically oriental Variations on Japanese Children's Songs. Played with soft sticks, the instrument has an organ-like tone of intimate reflection. It found a voice in Glennie's own Light in Darkness, but it was the encore number, the Londonderry Air, that caught the sound to perfection.

Evelyn Glennie is at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool, 7.30pm tomorrow (01253) 28372), and on tour to 25 May

TELEVISION Murder Most Horrid / BBC2 In which our comedy heroine, Dawn French, tries hard to be just another comedy heroine. And, mercifully, fails. By Jasper Rees

Dead the review of any sitcom's first outling and the truism is almost always there. Too early to judge it ... hasn't had time to settle ... the characters are too busy telling you who they are to let you know what they're like ... should pick up in the second

The half-hour comedy drama cannot fall back on the safety net of deferred assessment, because the characters have to convince you of their comic richness before the curtain comes down for ever. In "Girl Friday", the first story in a new series of Murder Most Horrid, Dawn French was at it immediately, not to mention literally. To the sound of squeaky panting, the camera

of her by a lover whose face we never see. Sally is an obsessively efficient secretary to a suave bigwig in construction, and midcoitus she gets the urge to call the office; pulling funny faces, rolling her eyes and her long-suffering partner pulls on his episode or, even better, the second series. trousers and, undetected, walks out of her life. A wealth of information and entertainment has been impressively squeezed into no more than a minute of screen time.

So French doesn't get to be Beatrice Dalle in Betty Blue and achieve the orgasm which, from what we know of her screen personality, would probably not be a timorous affair. This is a good example of Horpans across the mezzanine of a modest but tid heroically refusing simply to play to the tasteful loft until it locates the source of the strengths of its star, in this case her sheer dwelling on.

noise. There on the bed in all her glory is unfettered loudness. But pretty soon the line in the morning but, nursing an unrequited crush for her boss, has long liquid lunchbreaks and comes back to the office a glass door, there's a real sense of guilt as

you laugh at such a hackneyed stunt. it up quite badly, but it turns out that her character is only acting drunk. There's quite a fine distinction between acting hammily and playing someone who's hammy as a pretence, but it's probably not

The plot is not a complicated thing Sally (French) having the life humped out script has given in. At work, Sally toes the either, as there are only so many twists you can coil into a half-hour thriller. The boss (Nigel Havers in full cad mode) knocks out his wife; Sally, the only witness, throttles her as he calls the ambulance, and they dump running through the comic business that the body. She circuitously lands him in French can't resist. When she smacks into prison and then blackmails him all the way to the altar.

Paul Smith's script has some nice touches. In one scene, she's even doing hamming There's some dialogue in Dutch for French, a reference to afternoon rates at the thinly disguised "Lanesbrook" hotel, and French is given a line she was born to deliver but somehow never quite did to Jennifer Saunders. "Tell me I don't look a day over 25 and I'll sit on your knob all night," To make an offer like that takes real balls.



Mr and Mrs Underact: Nigel Havers and Dawn French

LAURIE LEWIS PETER MACDIARMI Benedict

THE BALLET anastasia

THE PLAY MIND MILLIE FOR ME.

After the success of An Absolute Turkey, Sir Peter-Hall translates (with Nicki Frei) and directs another Feydeau farce with Felicity Kendal, Nell Pearson and

Nicholas le Prevost with designs by Gerald Scarfe.

"Felicity Kendal so determinedly bubbles with

mischief, it's a wonder she doesn't do herself one, observed Paul Taylor. "Never guite achieves that offssful lift-off," concluded the Telegraph. "No real angulsh and no truly desperate cornecty," asserted

the FT. "Firmy, sometimes very furiny, occasionally-hilanous," admired the Times. "A thoroughly-pleasant evening," smiled the Guardian.

At the Haymarket Theatre Royal, London SWY.

BABEL TOWER

THE BOOK

AS Byett's first novel since the Booker prize winnings: As dyers him flower since the course in the mining.
Possession mises a straightforward tale of Frederical
and her friends in this Spities with a pasticle hovel
that ends up on trial 2 to Lady Chatterley's Love.

Hugo Bamacie felt that "Byatt really lays it on with a trowel ... adds cambersome pretention to what is otherwise a simple, readable novel. "Impressive, otherwise a simple, readable novel." Impressive, powerful and cumbersome," declared the Sunday Telegraph. "Byatt's Imagination does, just like prace with her analytical intelligence," declared the Sunday filmes. "Exceptional gravity and serious charm appointly dramatic," enthused the Speciator.

Chatho & Windus, £16.99

THEFILM STONEWALL

A findional account of the Stonewall riols, the birth of the modern lession and gay movement. The last film by Weel Finds, the man behind BBC2's Arena and director of The Lost Language of Cranes.

Adam Mars-Jones found its energy "positively blithe the strengths of the film far outweigh its weaknesses." Lacking that vital spark," said Time Out. "Ninety minutes of strutting, flouncing and agit and attitudinging, "grantisted the FT. "Stating too last over powerful material..... I wish this had been a better memoral, "admitted the Times. "Its heart is very definitely to the right place," said the Guardian.

.98 mins, cert. 15. At Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) and on limited release in Brighton, Edinburgh and Glasgow,

At last, a drag film from a genumely gay perspective. Winner of the London Film

overview

critical view

KEY

EXCELLENT

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DEADLY

A reworked revival of Kenneth MacMillan's 1971 flop three-act ballet (an extension of his one-act work for Lynn Saymour) with designs by Bob Crowley and danced by Viviana Durante.

Louise Levene was unamused. "They said it couldn't be done and I'm airaid they were right." "Namatively thin and choreographically padded," agreed the Times. "Triumphant ... a major work of art," hexalded the FT. "Shattering ... left the audience appleuding and refusing to leave," gasped the independent on Sunday. "The whole evening was a

triumph," announced the Sunday Telegraph. Further performances at the Royal Opera House, London WC2 (0171-304 4000) on 13, 14,

15 (matinée), 17 May. MacMillan devotees should

attend the matinée to see

Sarah Wildor in the title role.



Kendal runs the gamut from? perf to winsome... but her fans won't mind. Be warned This is not one of Feydeau's finest

(0171-930-8800).



Signatured and seventren pages of art, longuage, mathematics, pomography and the DNA of stalk, their cannot be accused of lack of ambition.



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and the safe

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movie books

Smouldering behind the lens



Haunted by sexual guilt and self-destructive forces, embarrassed by intellectuals and stunned by beauty, David Lean became a dreamer on an epic scale. Sir David Puttnam (left) reads a definitive and beautifully produced biography of the great British film director

WAYS



contrast to the then-dominant British tradition of dour realism. Increasingly, that romanticism expressed itself through a taste for epic ticism expressed itself through a taste for epic grandeur, which ultimately threatened to defeat—even to consume—his remarkable tal
defeat—even to consume—his remarkable tal
since D W Griffith. ent. But at the height of his powers, in Lawrence or The Bridge on the River Kwai, he displayed a command of cinematic scale and spectacle which has rarely been surpassed. Littruly, as an American critic once put it, "a poet of the far horizon."
It could be difficult to get close to Lean. He

had a habit of abstracting himself from his immediate surroundings and gazing into the middle distance. His conversation was punctuated by pregnant silences. Kay Walsh, his first wife, saw all this as one more sign of Lean's he became more reliant on American money, brooding guilt. She described him as "A disso Lean became increasingly distrustful of turbed, split man" and alluded to darkly selfdestructive forces that lay smouldering just below Lean's fastidiously elegant surface.

He never shone academically. Aged seven, he was told that he might never learn to read or write, and obviously didn't enjoy schoolwork. For the rest of his life, he would feel uncomfortable in the company of intellectuals. In part, this accounts for his deeply ingrained mistrust of reviewers, whom he looked on as a cerebral and malevolent tribe, forever sharpening their knives in readiness for some act of critical savagery.

His parents were Quakers, and this created a legacy of guilt - notably regarding sex which he never really managed to throw off.
It was because of that guilt, as much as anything, that he worked his way through six

This ideal producer was a man like 3 Arthur which he never really managed to throw off.

Rank who, when Lean suggested making a film of Great Expectations, said simply, "Go away and make it. Don't spend more than you marriages. For Lean was haunted by the idea have to. Tell us when we can see it." Distribof impotence, and as soon as he felt his sex- utors too were vilified. One can't help feelual energies waning, he would be compelled ing that Lean's backers, had they been asked, to find some new woman to rejuvenate them. may have seen things rather differently. After

Cinema started out as a hobby, its excitement and energy a much-needed antidote to screenwriter Robert Bolt. the tedious routine of schoolwork. He would

avid Lean was a director entirely enraptured by beauty. Whether it be Pip roaming the foggy marshes of the Thames Estuary in Great Expectations or Peter O'Toole as Lawrence of Aramined to make his career in cinema, and his big wangering the updulating desert. bia wandering the undulating desert father found him a job at the Gaumont stusands, Lean's films continually conjure up an dios in Shepherds Bush. Starting as an expressive romanticism that stands in stark unpaid teaboy, he quickly worked his way through the ranks to become one of the industry's most admired editors. Michael

His early forays into directing, such as This Happy Breed, Bluhe Spirit and, of course, Brief Encounter, remain satisfying enough. But it was with his two adaptations of Dickens, tle wonder that Steven Spielberg, who shares Great Expectations and Oliver Twist, that he Lean's taste for painting on a large canvas, first emerged as a really outstanding direcshould cite him as a major influence. He was tor. Spielberg called him a "visual novelist", and it's easy to see why. Yet, curiously, before he decided to make Great Expectations, Lean hadn't even read the book. Cinema became the prism through which he was able to understand and appreciate the literature that had defeated him at school.

As his films became more expensive, and producers. "I think it's time that all of us movie-makers band together to get rid of these crooks, every producer who has ever had his hands in our pockets," he told a somewhat startled audience at the Cannes Film Festival in 1988. When I met him to discuss producing Out of Africa, which he wanted to direct, he instantly launched into a tirade against producers, insisting that he only wanted to work with me because I was "different". But I realised that his dislike was, to all intents and purposes, generic. I too would have inevitably joined the ranks of those who had "betrayed" him.

His ideal producer was a man like J Arthur But his sexual anxieties also energised him creatively. "If you want to make a good movie," he said, "get yourself a new wonderful woman." may have seen things rather differently. After all, as the last chapters of Kevin Brownlow's monumental 800-page David Lean - A Biography (Richard Cohen, £25) reveal, he could be incredibly obstinate and uncompromising be incredibly obstinate and uncompromising, even with long-time collaborators like the



Above: Lean with his second wife, Ann Todd, in the Fifties; top, Peter O'Toole as Lawrence of Arabia in Lean's 1962 masterpiece

Zhivago, Lean was greatly struck by a quote A Passage to India and shortly before his threatens to overwhelm the narrative. But on from Tolstoy: "The more a man devotes himself to beauty, the further he moves away from goodness." But sadly, his reach seemed increasingly to exceed his grasp, and where he aimed solely for beauty he ended up capturing something more akin to a cloying pret-tiness. He himself recognised that his roman-

tic impulses might seduce him into "picturesque falsehood". Certainly that was how most critics viewed Ryan's Daughter, perhaps the only Lean film which seems devoid of an identifiable creative ambition.

his seventies, he dreamed of making a film based on the mutiny aboard the Bounty. But the project foundered, destroyed by soaring costs and endless fights with producers. He While he was preparing to make Doctor turned instead to a version of E M Forster's

death, at the age of 83, he still harboured the Joseph Conrad's sprawling novel of self-consuming greed and ambition. It was a dream never realised.

Film historian Brownlow, another national treasure, has written a monumental 800page life which parallels his subject's taste for the epic sweep. Brownlow is the author of some of the most influential and authoritative books ever published on the history of early film. Like The Parade's Gone By, his clas-Yet the fire never went out completely. In sic study of silent cinema, his Lean biography is really an all-encompassing oral history which seems certain to become the standard work on the director's life. The book is

the whole the sheer variety of voices, and the ambition of bewing an epic from Nostromo, way in which Brownlow's own passion for cinema keeps breaking through, makes for an enthraling and panoramic view of the director's life. Quite apart from anything else, this has to be one of the most beautifully produced books published on cinema in recent years. It's packed with wonderful production stills and photographs from Lean's personal collection, all of which are superbly presented.

"I think we're only at the beginning of making movies," Lean once said, in a phrase that stands as the closing epigraph to the book. In Kevin Brownlow, he is lucky enough to have a biographer who truly does set out to do justice to the strength and depth of an ambition meticulously researched - so much so that the that, for more than seven decades, remained wealth of production detail occasionally focussed on the beauty of that "far horizon".

Pretenders at the Palace

From council estate to Cannes, Archway to Absolute Beginners, the Powell-Woolley story is a salutary tale. By Christopher Hawtree

The Egos Have Landed: The Rise and Fall of Palace Pictures by Angus Finney, Heinemann, £16.99

Scarcely a publishing season goes by with-out a breathless account of the crazed col-lapse of another company which once appeared all-conquering. This time, the money so rashly scattered on the winds is that of Palace Pictures. It is a history which the publishers would have us believe is "all

ilavoured with a distinctly Eighties nostalgia". Certainly Nik Powell and Steve Woolley made the de rigueur oddball - but effective entrepreneurial couple. Powell's education was straddled between his schoolfriend Richard Branson's fledgling Virgin outfit and, even wilder, Sussex University. Woolley, too bright for the denizens of the Archway council estate on which he was brought up, had sought adolescent refuge in the darkness of all those now-vanished repertory cinemas of the Seventies and later clipped tickets as an usher at the Screen on the Green in Isling-ton. Powell's eventual disgruntlement with Virgin, which was to cost him £96m in lost

shares, brought him in closer touch with Woolley, who had risen through such ranks as there were in the world of independent movie theatres. It was a partnership which in an amaz-ingly short time would have them seeking, and

rangus runney is enthralled by all this, so much so that anybody would think that he is chronicling the making of Citizen Kane rather than The Company of Woher or what he takes to be the incendiary content of the lumpen Scandal. The old gag of the book's title is well to the sold gag of the book's title is well to the sold gag of the book's title is well to the sold gag of the book's title is well to the sold gag of the book's title is well to the sold gag of the book's title is well to the sold gag of the book's title is well to the sold gag of the so Scandal. The old gag of the book's title is wit itself compared with Finney's prose, which has a numbing, mock-immediate tone. Insufficiently distanced from this pell-mell story, Finney loses track of the fact that cinemagoers never turn up because one particular company is behind a movie.

Such is the nature of the business that innumerable people cross the path of Powell and Woolley, which means that the thumbnail por-

book were to be less of a cuttings-driven blur. within easy reach that Adrian Turner was Every so often, such familiar anecdotes as Joanna Whalley's non-nudity in Scandal are alleviated by a defter vignette, whether it be a drunken debauch at Cannes or the cool pro-

distributed by it and those it produced, one realises how much better the firm was at buying in other companies' work than it was at generating the stuff. On the one hand we have the likes of Blood Simple, Paris Texas and When Harry Met Sally; on the other, there is that clunker Absolute Beginners, which anybody could have seen was a no-ло from the start, and movie after movie rooted in television traits should have been neatly pared if the indeed, so many of them demanded a six-pack

understating the case with his celebrated remark that a typical Palace movie comprises
"fast cars, loud music and blow jobs".

The initial lack of interest here in The Crying Game was surely the right one. After the twist in the plot and Porrest Whittaker's bravura performance, there is nothing in it that requires a large screen. Every so often Finney lambasts Channel 4's failure to invest in one mooted production or other, but there are times when one must wonder whether its funding of a movie - even the prospect of it - is in fact baleful. That small screen only exacerbates the British inability

to think in terms of a movie proper. The crash of Palace need not vex posterity. It will take products of rather more clout than Backbeat and The Neon Bible for its successor, Scala Productions, to win over backers contemplating a lesson obvious to every reader of The Egos Have Landed except its author.

Also on general release ...

Up in the Air by Derek Jarman (Vintage, £8.99) First collection of the film-maker's scripts includes Akentaten, Neutron and Sod 'Em.

With Nails, Film Diaries of Richard E Grant (Picador, £16.99) Grant's diaries of the 10 years spent in Hollywood after Withnail and I is a winsome collection of starstudded anecdotes (visiting sex shops with Liz Hurley,

escorting Sandra Bernhardt to Madonna's place) and grumpy reflections on not being recognised in obscure airports: "nothing works...my luggage is lost...people look as ugly as Belgians..." Poor boy.

Past Imperfect. History According to the Movies ed Mark C Carnes (Cassell, £20) Relationship between great historical events and their interpretation on film.

A talent for barking orders

The diary of a screenwriting life paints an unlovely portrait of Lindsay Anderson. By Christopher Bray

Going Mad in Hollywood, by David Sherwin, Deutsch, £17.99

and give food and lodging and good advice. I'd be very good at it." Sherwin - who wrote If ..., 0, Lucky Man and Britannia Hospital for Anderson - offers lots of evidence for Anderson's hospitality in this book. But he has little that backs up Anderson's belief in his talents as a counsellor. Anderson didn't offer

advice so much as bark orders. Anderson was fond of saying that authority isn't necessary, yet he never spoke without sounding like he was swatting a fly. Any director needs his share of bombast, but Anderson was as dictatorial off-set as he was on. He gave his actors enormous freedoms. In return they worshipped him. They thought he was loosening up their artistry but really he was just groping at what he wanted. Mal-

hate all the bullshit of film-making," Lind-say Anderson once told David Sherwin.
"What I'd really like to do is set up a hotel
"What I'd really like to do is set up a hotel With its waxily numb performances and its

switches between colour and monochrome, If... was commonly held to be a Brechtian snook cocked at bourgeois narrative form. Anderson called the movie an insult to a nation that deserved insulting. In fact, lack of money was behind the changes in film stock, and the feeling that the actors were just cruising was down to weak scripting. Beaky and cawing, Anderson was a genius at bringing out the worst in others. David Sherwin seems pleasant enough until he and Anderson meet up. Walking around a seaside town, Anderson spots one cafe selling egg and chips for 65p and one for 75p. Why, he wonders, doesn't everyone go to the cheaper cafe? Because, the two decide, men and women are stupid.

When Malcolm McDowell drones in If ... that "war is the last possible creative act", the movie is in no doubt he is right. The film only really sparks when it starts killing "stupid" people off. Sherman wrote the movie when be was a teenager, so he has an excuse for this nihilistic posturing. But Anderson was in his mid-forties when he directed If It takes a life of rare privilege for a man that age to have a child's brutal naivety.

A cobbled-together diary of Sherwin's life since the early Sixties, Going Mad in Hollywood is a chaotic whorl of memoranda. Its title refers to a period of manic depression Sherwin suffered. Fortunately, there has always been some woman or other on hand to look after him. Like Anderson, Sherwin is a pre-feminist thinker. Women are there to serve and be serviced. The only character to be given a Brechtian nomenclature in If ... is that sexist cut-out

"The Girl". This book, on the other hand, is studded with incisive cameos. But like Sherwin's movies, it lacks drive. It flits between Hollywood and Britain, but only in the pages dealing with Anderson does it ever blush with life. Even its title is inapposite. "Life with Lindsay Anderson" would have been more accurate, as well as more commercial. But as Sherwin admits, he has no flair for salesmanship.

Aside from John Schlesinger's Sunday, Bloody Sunday, few of Sherwin's scripts have worked on have made the screen. Perhaps that is a good thing. Venom ("Jaws on dry land") and Jon Voight's Robin Hood (with Bob Dylan down to play Alan A' Dale) hardly sound the stuff on which reputations are made. Yet they show that for all his firebrand anger, Sherwin would easily sell out to Tinseltown's trivia. Lindsay Anderson spent his time insulting the world, but at least he never insulted himself.



A chronicle of horsemen, blood and firebirds

Stay-at-home provincial Jan Morris is bowled over by the combative, lachrymose, scheming and love-lorn denizens of a city of the mind

St Petersburg: A cultural history by Solomon Yolkov, Sinclair-Stevenson, £20

t is perfectly proper that this astonishing book should be reviewed by a writer of traditional English prose who lives in the bowels of rural Wales, prefers to be in bed by 11 and seldom meets an artist from one literary festival to the next. A more metropolitan critic might not be quite so astounded by the unending passion of cultural life in St Petersburg, as presented for us here by an ebullient and affectionate son of the city. A New Yorker, especially, might feel perfectly at home with it all, if only because a stream of prodigious emigre talent has created a second St Petersburg over there, so that Stravinsky, Balanchine, Prokofiev, Nabokov, Brodsky, Horovitz, Yascha Heifetz, Nathan Milstein, Solomon Volkov and all have come to seem more or less home-grown.

But for a bourgeois European provincial like me, it is all a marvel and everything about the book excited me. Even its translation from the original Russian, undertaken by somebody whose first language was evidently not English, sometimes has an exotic tang to it; while the story itself is told with such love and intimate knowledge, is so surging with marvellous characters, and with historical episodes tragic and inspiring, that as I read it over my cocoa of an

evening, it quite took my breath away.

Such is the way of the Russians, all blood and firebird. Mr Volkov is describing for us what here likes to call the St Petersburg "mythos" - likes it so much, in fact, that he uses the word several hundred times in the course of the book.
This legend Volkov sees fostered by the delibcrate isolation of the city, away in the cold northern marshes, by the classical grace of its architecture and by the will of the successive despots who ruled it: but he sees it enacted above all by its writers, dancers, artists and musicians, starting with Pushkin, ending with Akhmatova, and never without a genius in between.

It was Pushkin, with his seminal poem "The Bronze Horseman", who first recognised St Petersburg to be the very epitome of conflict between the State and the individual – Peter the Great had built the place with slave labour, killing at least 100,000 in the process - and down the generations the city's artists endlessly fought the fight against tsars as against com-missars. What a roster of towering names -Gogol, Dostoyevsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Mussorgsky, Borodin, Rachmaninoff, Blok, Benois, Diaghilev, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich! What risks they ran, what loves they loved, what thrilling lives they led! What schools and the St Petersburg night. Volkov subtly evokes



Mary Evans Picture Library

counter-schools they formed, now as rivals, now as clandestine allies - acmeists and symbolists and maximalists and suprematists, declaiming their poems in the cellar of The Stray Dog, bursting into tears at the ends of symphonies! it makes the heart sing to read about them.

But it could be dangerous and depressing, and often the artistic life was pursued through

the disturbing ambivalences that always linked Art and State in this city, whether as St Petersburg under the tsars, Petersburg under the Bolsheviks or Leningrad under the Stalinists.

The tsars were patrons as well as censors: Nicholas I called Pushkin "the wisest man in Russia". The Communists cynically recognised the power of art: celebrated practitioners painted posters for them, decorated propaganda plates, made films and danced. Many an artist

felt it necessary to co-operate with despotism, if only to give art a chance; many more sacrificed their careers, their liberty and even their

lives rather than compromise their integrity. In the long term, of course, art always wins: in the short term, as Brodsky once told his boorish interrogators, they had all the power of the KGB behind them, he had only "half a room and a typewriter". Nevertheless, through the worst days of Stalin's Great Terror and the Cold

War, the artists of Leningrad somehow managed to keep the flame alive, in texts too subtle for bureaucrats to grasp, in coded historical allusions, in the underground distribution system that was samizdat, and now and then in gestures of glorious defiance.
In 1948 the officially denounced Fifth Sym-

In 1948 the officially denounced rifth synt-phony of Shostakovich was performed in Leningrad to the tumultuous applause of an audience that heard it as a declaration of per-sonal liberty: the conductor Yevgeny Mravin-sky, in an impulse that might well have cost him his life, seized the score and held it high above his head in a deliberate cock of the snook at his head in a deliberate cock of the snook at tyranny at all times and in all places, but espe-

ially in St Petersburg.

For the city's intellectuals always thought of it as St Petersburg or, more often, simply as "Piter". For them, as this book lovingly demon-"Piter". For them, as this book lovingly demonstrates, it was more than a city, more then a country, but a state of the soul – a mythos! – which impregnated everything they thought and created. They took it with them wherever they went, whether to the Gulags or Manhattan. Pushkin's image of the Bronze Horseman refers to Etienne Falconet's heroic equestrian statue of Peter the Great beside the Neva, and this was far more than just a civic icon, like the Eiffel Tower or Sydney Opera House, but a promise,

Tower or Sydney Opera House, but a promise, a threat and an enchantment, all in one.

In 1991, another statue of Peter the Great went up in his city, by the emigré sculptor Mihail Chemiakin. It is in a very different kind. Stumped massive but resigned in a chair, the old despot stares in a glazed way into space, and he seems to be tapping his bony fingers impatiently on the chair-arms. He might be facing his accusers at a war-crimes trial. His head, his accusers at a war-crimes trial. His head, taken from a deathmask, is early small. His expression is at once haughty and defensive.

Is this the new emblem of Mr Volkov's "muthor"? Having gravited trial.

"mythos"? Having survived two protracted despotisms, four changes of name, a revolution, two wars and the most terrible of sieges, St Petersburg now seems to have settled into an all-too-familiar rumour of crime and general squalor, compounded as usual by tourism. where are you galloping, proud steed, demanded Pushkin of Falconer's Peter the Great, "And where will you plant your hooves?" Chemiakin's Peter is clearly going nowhere at all. Could it possibly be that this tremendous city. so stunningly creative down the years, so familiar with genius as with sorrow, will at last learn what it is like to live in uninteresting times?

Audiobooks



Come to Grief The Vicar of Wakefield read by Christopher Robbie

Dick Francis's latest novel Come to Grief (Chivers, 10 hrs 46 minutes, £15.95 only by mail order 01225 335336) takes his former champion jockey turned private investigator Sid Halley into macabre new territory. Tony Britton's versatile reading brings buttoned-up hero, distraught green wellie brigade and heavy men in suits into startlingly immediate life. The twists and turns of the plot make it unturnoffable. Oliver Goldsmith's The Vicar of Wakefield (Naxos, abridged, 4 hrs approx, £7.99) is a tragicomic cliff-hanger that pokes fun at aspirations and gullibility but lauds honest virtues. Christopher Robbie conveys Dr Primrose's innocent eagerness, his wife's breathless foolishness and Mr Thornhill's lazy hauteur brilliantly, and makes it easy to understand why this little classic has been in print for two and a half centuries.

Christina Hardyment

Who's reading whom



Esther Freud has been transfixed by a ripping yarn of plagues, fires and Ouakerism

The story of a courtier in the reign of Charles II didn't sound like my cup of tea at all and I wouldn't have picked it up if a friend hadn't thrust it into my hands in a bookshop. In fact Rose Tremain's Restoration (Sceptre) is sheer genius. Her portrait of Robert Merivel, vulgar, vain, a sycophant with an obsession with beautiful clothes, who falls from the King's favour and undergoes his own "restoration" of the soul, is unputdownable. My boyfriend started reading it and hardly spoke to me for a week.

> **NEW AUTHORS** PUBLISH YOUR WORK ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED Picton, Non-Picton, Biography, Religious Poetry, Children's ALITHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED RITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO

Marking the salami

Amanda Mitchison reads some child inspired insights into the Italian psyche

capitulates.

journey starts with Rita's announcement of her second

pregnancy while the family are

sitting on the beach at Pescara,

and continues through the

birth, to playschool - where the

days' bowel movements of each

child, detailing number, con-

sistency etc. are marked on a

back at Pescara six years later

when the birth of a third child

The intention is, as Parks

explains, to describe "how it

happens that an Italian

becomes an Italian," and how

his own children are growing up

foreigners (and speaking a

dialect he cannot fully under-

stand.) And in Italy, which is

this also provides an effective

ineffable quality - the national

ance of bad weather, their

obsession with diplomas and

family relations. His central

is imminent.

An Italian Education by Tim Parks, Secker, £15.99

n 1981 the author Tim Parks, aiming to support a novelwriting habit by teaching English, went to live in Italy and ended up in a village outside Verona, a sort of Mediterranean equivalent of Cricklewood. He married. He had a son. He wrote some wellreceived novels and Italian Neighbours, a very funny book about ordinary, humdrum Cricklewood Italy. Then, in the late Eighties, he committed the most momentous, unthinkable act of folly - something that today no self-respecting upwardly mobile, Italian parent would dream of: he conceived a second child.

Child number two means that Parks and his Italian wife Rita have to buy a house. Only, what with all the Italian middle class cheating on their taxes, squirrelling it all away in highyield government bonds and therefore being able to buy up apartments for their own children, there is nothing to buy in their village. Instead they are forced to buy a flat in a building not yet finished.

The day after the second child is born there is a meeting of the new condominium. Parks discovers that most of his neighbours are unhappy with the security precautions. The front doors to the flats may weigh 200 pounds each and have an armoured steel core, but what they really need is a communal, remote-controlled self-locking gate with flashing yellow lights

on the top. Parks balks at the cost of this contraption. He asks if there is really any need... Then, with a meaningless bits of paper, their flash of inspiration, he suddenly remembers that he has also highly controlling vision of read in the papers, just the other week, of a child being killed when one of these automatic gates trapped his neck. A ety demands - and receives horrified silence descends. Parks thinks he has clinched it. bright-lights, designer-label, How elever he was setting at other obsession, the safety of onto an older peasant reality of settled, more cheerful and those precious only children. untarmacked roads and women (mysteriously) less spotty.

Months later the neighbours who go shopping in their slip-vite him to a barbecue. The pers, and Dickensian child invite him to a barbecue. The drudgettes who serve customers subject of the remote controlled in country trattorias. self-locking gates comes up This contrast is evinced in again. The neighbour has now,

extraordinary ways; often it is it turns out, found a company even seen between generations producing a completely childof the same family. Parks's safe gate with a light-sensitive father-in-law - and I don't think trigger costing only £900 more he is joking - claims to have than the basic version ... Parks been brought up in a household where in the evening the end of the salami was marked with a Such little daily incidents are the stuff of this book which is sequel to the Cricklewood Italy pencil to stop nightime nibbook and almost as funny. This

Usually the Italians sail through the contradictions. A certain instinctive theatricality, a happy acceptance of the difference – enormous difference in Italy's case – between rules and reality, between how things are supposed to be and how they really are, helps them. Only occasionally do they come board - to the childminder, to unstuck. The key dilemma facexpeditions, hobbies and then ing Italians is how to live in a beautiful, spotless flat and yet spoil your child rotten.

And, by our more robust standards, children are spoilt indeed - indulged, coddled, cuddled. Everyone is nice to them. When Parks takes his children round the village, they are fed sweets and chucked under the chin at every street corner. The weather is better. such a child-orientated culture, The food is better. They are not focus for looking at that most forced to eat what they do not like. There is - think of it - no word in Italian for "bedtime." This may all seem a bit cloying By and large he carries it off. and over-comfortable. At the He is very funny about Italians' end of the book one is well and foibles - their hypochondria, truly ready for a bracing walk or their hedonism, their intoler-

long run, it is hard not to consexism, their self-sacrificing but clude that having a happier time must be good for you. It must account for why Italian children are nicer than preoccupation is the extraordi-British kids and less likely to nary balancing act Italian socitake to air guns and chopping from its people: the big-car, the heads off the class hamsters. It may also account for why, compared with their British gadget-ridden and exaggeratloggerheads the Italian obses- edly consumerist world of counterparts, Italian adolession with security against that modern Italy and how it welds cents are more confident, more

a stern matronly voice shouting

"Because I say so". But in the

Behind a wall of worship

A new volume of 'irony-free twitterings' enrages Edward Pearce

Journals 1987-1989 by Anthony Powell, Heinemann, £20

wenty pounds, one feels, is a lot of money for a valetudinarian novelist telling one what he had to eat, which of his friends has died or come for lunch, and for using the expression "one feels" like royalty. But then Anthony Powell, he feels, is royalty. The book-jacket carries pinches of incense, promising "hours of impure pleasure", "infi-nitely re-readable", "enfolds with relaxed raffishness, full of good stories". Like this?

Monday 19 June: "In the afternoon V (Violet) and I watched on (Live) TV installation of King Juan Carlos of Spain as Knight of Garter in St George's Chapel Windsor. The weather was stewingly hot, perhaps accounting for Juan Carlos looking rather grumpy. I should have been sorry to have had to mill about in Garter robes on such a day, but Frank (Longford) who was present, nearly my twin, as spry as could be."

That entry is perfectly representative of the broad futility of too much of the journals. Yes it is nice that Powell (in his early eighties when this was written) has a pleasant life in his home in Frome, got an honour, and sees his friends. But we are asked to put up with the inconsequential

working on the interminable. There is minor chit-chat with the great; "Antonia asked if she and Harold Pinter could lunch here today after the wedding of Matthew Carr (son of Raymond Carr, Hispanicist don) and Lady Anne Somerset, the Beauforts' daughter. She said lunch here was one of her baits for Harold to come. I asked if Harold would wear a tailcoat."

being reviewed, problems with a utation. What shine out here are dental plate, fine points of geneal- a steadily nourished self-esteem, ogy - would that barony have a comic pride of acquaintance descended in the female line? - and antecedent and a taking seri-16 pages of "congrats on CH", the ously of things not worth taking companionship of honour which seriously: "Journalist Marcus he distinguishes lovingly from vulgar knighthoods. "Ted Heath put forward a knighthood about a dozen years ago. I was always brought up to think a knight



Anthony Powell: a steadily nourished self-esteem

rather an awful thing to be, even in the services only survived by reason of duty done." There would be "the problem of getting V called Lady Violet' rather than 'Lady Powell' without unduly complicating the issue for unsophisticated people."

One reads this irony-free twittering in awe and realises that we are in the presence of Sir Walter

Elliot of Kellynch Hall, who found such solace in the Baronetage. It is Sir Walter with wellreasoned judgments on literature, but implacably Sir Walter.

All diaries are made up of small things - Thomas Turner shop. Parson Woodforde wolfing cold fowl or Pepys scoring with the ladies of Westminster Hall. Clearly Powell who, very reasonably, tells us that he could not now write a novel, intends these to join the established diaries.

Perhaps they will, and they There are the books read or may do a fearful injury to his rep-Scriven... rang, asking if I had been a member of The Grid, (a rather stuffy undergraduate club at Oxford). I have an idea I once (especially being a knight's lady) ceeded further, as the club was the way Brian Sewell talks.

full of the least amusing Etonians, Wykehamists etc." But little things in diaries can

be endearing, as Powell truly is when he grieves for Trelawney his old cat and reproaches himself for letting others take Trelawney "to the vet to make an end of things". Trelawney has a moment of being cherished in death like "le pent Peloton", the little dog of Joachim du Bellay. But when a replacement is bought and as endearingly cherished, Powell spoils everything. The family providing the cat are called (amusingly I suppose) "Snook". So the kitten is to be called "Snook". The ear of the buying supplies for his Sussex creative writer is closed to the odious condescension of this little act. Were he less full of himself, Powell would notice other people. But the book is as full of the esteem of other important or gently-bred people as the court circular ("which I have taken to scanning since my appearance there for my CH audience") is full of morning coats.

It is depressing. Of course there is intelligence and buzz here. The comments on an impressive reading - "with some skipping" he reads Richardson's Clarissa - are insightful. But he closes himself off behind a wall of worship tessellated from compliments, and by a worked-upon grandeur of put up, but matters never pro-

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Maxwell vs Murdoch the untold story

Stop Press: Archer writes witty book! By Hugo Barnacle

The Fourth Estate by Jeffrey Archer, HarperCollins, £16.99

ike some two-headed mutant he should become a member." offspring of Citizen Kane, Jef-frey Archer's new novel offers a thinly disguised account of the lives a dry sense of humour. Townsend, of Robert Maxwell and Rupert Murdoch, here called Richard Armstrong and Keith Townsend. Armstrong and Keith Townsend. Armstrong, born Lubji Hoch, is a Czech Jew who escapes to Britain in wartime. Later serving in the British army of occupation, he swindles himself the rights to a German scientific publisher's list, underpaying the royalties until he amasses enough cash to start taking over newspapers. He is a gournand and newspapers. He is a gourmand and a ferocious litigant. (One of Maxwell's sons has attempted to ban the book and failed.)

strong's ruin.

There is a rumour in book circles that Archer's manuscripts, as deliv-paper, here called the Globe rather ered to his publishers, are simply than the Sun, a curious thing hap-awful, and that the editors should pens. It is 1968, Wilson is at No.10 take credit for the finished product. and Heath is opposition leader. On the evidence of The Fourth Townsend instals his new editor, Estate, this is untrue. In a properly edited text, we would not be told that Germany invaded Czechoslovakia in 1939, or that the Allies sink to the situation said to have gone by, the situation said to have gone by, the situation said to have gone by, the situation said to have gone by the situa landed in Normandy on 5 June is the same, but suddenly the back-1944, which can't be a simple misprint because the previous day is given as 4 June. And since the edi- to win the 1979 election. tors don't seem to have done any work, Archer must be held responsor. This would be absurd if it weren't so Shakespearian. It exactly replisible for the novel's merits as well as its faults. So we can thank him for scheme in Othello. Presumably, with such observations as: "it was still a court-martial offence for a British officer to have an overdraft."

For the same reason, where any nicely turned sentences occur, we should put them down to authorial, not editorial talent. For example: Two decisions were made when Keith was 11 which were to shape nation very few cues. But at least in the rest of his life, and both of them the second half, when the dealdealing with Armstrong this time, "People he had never been able to get an appointment with in the past were inviting him to lunch at they didn't go as far as suggesting wholly unsatisfactory.

got there ahead of him. "I suspect they walked," says his lawyer.
In the most sustained humorous

an the book and failed.) sequence, Townsend gets bested by
Townsend is an Oxford-educated an ageing English heiress who has Australian who inherits and vastiy expands his family's newspaper business. He is more a gambler than a crook, though at school he does pinch some of the cricket pavilion fund to bet on a horse, in a comic foreshadowing of the pension-fund theft that will eventually cause Armstrong's ruin. ial, but Archer doesn't do too badly.

Once Townsend acquires the ground has changed. Thatcher now leads the opposition and is poised

cates the famous double time-Archer as with Shakespeare, these things are not quite mistakes, and not calculated trickery either, but stem from a kind of serendipity or constructive carelessness. It cer-

tainly helps the pace.

Archer doesn't do insight or atmosphere, and gives the imagitive, the pull of the story to some extent makes up for the lack of depth, and although it will frustrate those who enjoy wordplay and cerethe Garrick, even if, having met him, bral exercise, The Fourth Estate is not



The Rightsh was in south eastern lorkey has always been response and under reported (writes the forms of Sarajevo or the superpower Interest of Checkings. Not peoply have been killed in 11 years of fighting and millions more made broaders in this inaccessible back garden of Europe. In Matput's Children (Cassell), a rare him installed look at the state of the 12 million Kinds of Turkey, knowthen Rugman this the state of the first state of the 12 million Kinds of Turkey, knowthen Rugman this the state for the first state of the 12 million Kinds of Turkey, knowthen Rugman this the state for the first state of the 12 million Kinds of Turkey, knowthen Rugman this the state for the first state of the first state. It is a next comprehensive account of the PKK rebellion, including the often untold story of its dictatorial and chartsmatic leader Abdullah Ocalan, but does not leave much know the future.

Parma violets and fishy nylons

A squalid tale of London preachers has Helen Stevenson clutching the sick bag

know a woman in her seventies who has finally given The Touch by Julie Myerson know a woman in her sevenies who has imaly given up reading contemporary literary fiction by women – particularly young ones. She's not narrow-minded, nor unfamiliar with or unmoved by suffering. She just says she can't take the nastiness any more. "I don't enjoy it, and I'm sure it doesn't make me a better person."

If this is an attitude that comes with age, then reading The Tayor must have send me by about 50 years. The

ing The Touch must have aged me by about 50 years. The scene (contemporary south London) and tone (sharp as a scalpal, dirty as a used dressing), are set in the first paragraphs: Frank, a squalid, raving and clearly dangerous street preacher lies covered in blood on Clapham Common, waiting to be discovered by a group of Sunday afternoon strollers. Here are the novel's main characters. Two adult sisters - Donna, bright and beautiful but half cripoled, and Gayle, a nurse, who, as a single mother, is never without her three-year-old daughter Kitty; and Donna's religiosities and the repellence of what he is and says. boyfriend, the sulky Will, who is hostile towards his sister-in-law and works in advertising. Gayle calls an ambulance which takes Frank to the hospital where she works. Later, drawn by his mysteriously knowing Donna's name and his claim to be able to heal her, Gayle and Will start

Picador, £12.99

to visit him in the squalor of his own home.

Donna is desperate for a child. Recently she miscarried: "Will tried to stop her seeing the pale mass which was clearly the foetus - a terrible shadowy human shape on the wad of lavatory paper - but she made sure she drank it in, locked the picture in her memory before he flushed it down." Frank lays on hands, and Donna is well again, fit to conceive and bear a child. But she refuses to give thanks to Frank or his God. Gayle and Will knowledge a debt to Frank, while refuting his garbled

Often, when you ask people why they didn't like a novel, they say. "Oh, I just didn't warm to any of the characters" - which always seems a little on the critically floppy side. But *The Touch* made you want to take refuge in precisely this kind of reprehensible subjectivism. Take

this portrait of a minor character, for instance, one that made me want to throw my hat up in the air and be sick into it all at once. "A diabetic from Worksop, Miss F. worked all her life in a chocolate factory - harsh phlegmy breath, cheeks furred and rouged like old cinema seats. Her breath a mix of gases: onions and parma violets. She clings hard as Frank tries to push her off, hitching up her skirt, revealing a tang of fishy nylons and much more."

Myerson uses words with a kind of redemptive grace

which achieves a sublime transfiguration of the hideousness of it all. A boy's skin is "so white you could detect the workings of his body, the schemings of his heart beneath"; she notices the way shattered windscreens leave "pale blue crumbs of glass heaped on the pavement", and comments on the biro mark on a dead boy's thumb, or a watch left ticking in a shoe on the beach. Her sentences are so funny and spare you feel stung and winded after just a few pages. The lyricism is what you'd expect of a songwriter more than of a novelist. The images and observations leave lasting physical impressions on your nerves. Her reputation is terrific, and she completely deserves it. I just think, next time, maybe I'll take it as read.

Paperbacks -

Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst

The Unredeemed Captive by John Demos (Papermac, £10). Set in the milieu of Last of the Mohicans, this vivid narrative history concerns Eunice Williams, aged seven, who was "captivated" by Indians in 1704 during a raid on Deerfield, Massachusetts. Within two years, Eunice had forgotten her English and had been assimilated into her new culture, where she lived to the age of 89. The author's subtle decoding of surviving documents brings to life a puritan world as alien to us today as the Indian village where Bunice was forced to live.

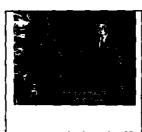
The Club: The Jews of Modern Britain by Stephen Brook (Constable, £14.95). One of our most engaging travel writers turns his sights on a target closer to home - indeed Brook is himself a member of this 350,000strong "club". This does not prevent him expressing trenchant opinions about certain members. Sometimes

he seems too severe. After adducing an impressive roster of talent, from Steven Berkoff to Lucian Freud, Brook remarks that Anglo-Jewry has a "mostly undistinguished record in the arts". Outspoken, often furmy, few works so encyclopaedic in scope can be as enjoyable to read.

Welter Winchell by Neal Gabler (Papermac, £13). Ex-hoofer WW hit the big time in 1929 by inventing the gossip column for the New York
Mirror. Winchell's snappy manic style
was ideal for the era. By the late
Thirties, two-thirds of the US was reading his tittle-tattle and press agents lived in dread of being put on his DDL (drop dead list). It is a great story for our celeb-obsessed times, with a colourful supporting cast. In the Fifties, Winchell costed up to McCarthy, but he was sunk by television and changing public taste. Only his daughter attended his funeral in 1972.

The Chalice and the Blade by Riane Eisler (Pandora, £9.99). Human society was once characterised by the female life-giving chalice - Eisler particularly cites ancient Crete - but for the past 5,000 years, the male death-dealing blade has ruled. It is now high time, the author argues, for a return to "gylany", a term she has invented for a "linking of both halves of humanity". Two more volumes of this worthy, cranky stuff are promised - but it left this reader feeling a bit like Bertie Wooster after having his mind improved by Honoria Glossop.

Jackie by Wayne Koestenbaum (Fourth Estate, £8.99). In the last 15 years Jackie Onassis has appeared in Wayne Koestenbaum's dreams over two dozen times. They shared a Christmas celebration (she gave him a \$25 cheque), sat together at a dinner party hosted by Ronald Reegan (at which she sighed "how pretty!" at the sight of her own



Walter Winchell ANT CALLOTS OS CEPESSILA.

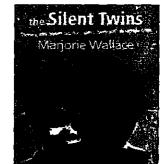
cheque book), and once Jackie shouted "Jew-Boy!" loudly in Wayne's direction. In an attempt to liberate his "inner Jackie", Wayne Koestenbaum, Harvard professor, has left no facet of his obsession with the Queen of Camelot unturned.

The Weekend by Peter Cameron (Fourth Estate, £5.99). Peter Cameron's first novel comes packaged in a spiffy little square no bigger than the palm of a hand. Frivolous and diverting in equal measure, it tells the story of three buddies whose midsummer weekend

in upstate New York is overshadowed by the anniversary of a friend's death from Aids. Nothing actually happens, apart from a couple of lover's tiffs. but the lifestyle described is so beguilingly Martha Stewart - colonial farmhouses, white sundresses - that the book is shamefully hard to put

The Silent Twins by Marjorie Wallace (Vintage, £7.99). Identical twins Jennifer and June Gibbons were known at school as the "mocking birds": always moving in unison, refusing to speak to anyone (including members of their own family), and living a life governed omens. Journalist Marjorie Wallace's breathtaking account - first published in 1986 and based on her reading of the twins' Brontesque diaries, novels and poems - reconstructs the sisters' childhood on an RAF base in Haverfordwest, and a tormented adolescence which finally resulted in

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matching beds in Broadmoor. Sibling love at its scariest.

Bitterroot Landing by Sheri Reynolds (Women's Press, £6.99). "Mammie" brews the sweetest liquor in the state. Men come from miles around to visit ber woodland shack, drink her witchy potions, and get laid; that is until the day Jael whacks "Mammic" over the head with a mallet and kills her. And that's just for starters. Sheri Reynold's strangely compelling, and at times totally baffling, tale of everyday southern folk is a potent as a glass of hooch on a hot day.

if anyone can Canon can



and other stories "William Boyd displays in this collection his great talent as a master of fantasy, farce and irony" Sunday Express More William Boyd titles are available in Penguin Paperback and on Penguin Audiobook

Heroes, heroines and the wildest dreams

In January we asked readers to send us their plans for the expedition of a lifetime and win a share in the Heineken/Independent £25,000 travel bursary. The response was impressively enthusiastic and competition was fierce. Here we publish the successful entries. By Simon Calder

hat happens when you offer the world? As The Independent and Heineken Export discovered, the response is tremendous. Along with the travel publisher Lonely Planet and youth specialist STA Travel, we wanted to help some of the wildest dreams of adventure come true - so applicants were invited to apply for bursaries, sending in plans of their proposed trips. The plans the

judges found the most impressive were given awards.
Heineken Export is available in more countries than
any other lager – 177 in all. So it was natural that the
drink should be behind a scheme to extend travellers'
horizons. Thousands of dreamers applied for a share of
the £25 000 hursers. Some were for long tasks others for the £25,000 bursary. Some were for long treks, others for short, sharp shots at the trip of a lifetime.

These were whittled down to a shortlist by the judges - award-winning travel writer William Dalrymple, Jennifer Cox of Lonely Planet, Kathryn McNamara of Heineken Export. Sarah Garland of STA Travel and myself - and the applicants invited to London for interview.

Here, they faced some close questioning about motives and means. The foremost concern of the judges was that the participants should return safely, so the applicants had to demonstrate that they were properly prepared and had the necessary resources to cope with setbacks. After the interviews, hours of argument took place to decide how most fairly to divide the cash. We hope we have done our bit to extend the frontiers of travel - and look forward to finding out how the adventurers get on.

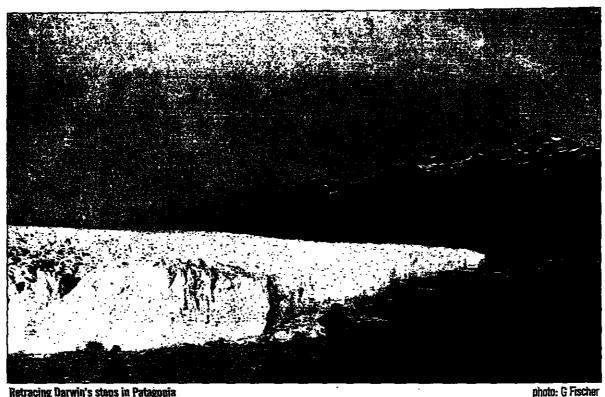
A Short Walk Through India

Rory Spowers, 29, wins £2,500

I intend to carry nothing with me except a toothbrush, a blanket and some money. I want to make a pilgrimage on foot from the southern tip of India to the Himalayas. The 3,000-mile journey will be undertaken from September and will extend through India's 50th year of independence." Rory, who lives in London, describes himself as a "chef, writer and film-maker". He plans to spend no more than £6 per day on subsistence, staying at villages along the way or at cheap guest houses. William Dalrymple thought the plan splendid, but queried whether the toothbrush was really necessary. "I find neem twigs do the job just as well," he said.

Search for the last of the "wild men" of Borneo Mark Eveleigh, 28. £3,300

"I have researched extensively and believe I have located



Retracing Darwin's steps in Patagonia

the last large territory of the mysterious Punan tribe. This is the last resort of the original jungle-dwelling nomads the wild men of Borneo - believed by other tribes to be so primitive that they have tails."

Mark is a labourer living in London. He will travel with Paul Bailey, a photographer, who is distantly related to the famed "white Rajah of Sarawak" – as, bizarrely, is William Dallymple, one of the judges. Mark and Paul's journey will go from east to west across the huge island of Borney wicking an except all buriel ground in Sarawak. Borneo, visiting an ancestral burial ground in Sarawak before the main part of the trip - a five-week hike through the dense jungle interior of Borneo. As far as the pair know, no foreigner has ever crossed the wild area just south of the Muller range. "We will hire two Punan guides and a hunter, who will help us to supplement our diet of rice."

Joining troubadours in Transylvania

Claire Doyle, 32 and Alexander Hopkins, 21. £2,000 "We shall be playing music with, and learning from, the gypsy musicians of Transylvania. We are taking instruments made by ourselves - violin and threestringed viola - and will pick up tunes and techniques by ear. We will travel to remote Hungarian villages, including those visited by Béla Bartók and Zoltán

Kodály at the beginning of the century."

Claire and Alexander live in London and are both musicians and instrument makers. They are not simply planning to turn up and track down a troupe of roving musicians, but have enlisted the help of Iren Kertesz, a Hungarian singer. They plan to spend up to two months ing this summer, staying with villagers – which in lain the modest amount of funding required.

As evidence of the determination involved, Claire has been learning Hungarian for a year.

A year on the trail of Charles Darwin

Toby Green, 22. £4,400

"I plan to retrace Charles Darwin's route by horse. Although Darwin is famous for travelling by ship, all of the important research projects undertaken were made on horseback. For this reason, and also for the reason on horseback. For this reason, and also for the reason that horses are an accepted method of transport in Patagonia (where I will spend much of my time), the horse is an appropriate and innovative way of following in Darwin's footsteps."

Like Darwin, Toby is a Cambridge University student: he is about to sit his philosophy finals. He asked for £7,300 to fund his 8,000-mile journey through Brazil, Livenay, Argentina Chile and Peru. A good horse, he

Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Peru. A good horse, he told the judges, costs around £500 in Brazil, and both he and his steed should survive on £10 each per day. "In much of the region, estancias [ranches] will accept passing travellers".

The judges commended the plan but felt it demanded too large a slice of the £25,000 cake. Toby said he was confident that he could earn up to £10 an hour teaching English in the region, so he was awarded £4,400-enough to get him to Tierra del Fuego and north to Valparaiso.

Pacific to Altiplano — and back

Christopher Bishop, 31, and Frances Appleyard, 29. £2,000 "We want to travel through the western edge of South America and get entwined in the ancient Inca civilisation and Spanish colonialism." The trip will take them from Lima (where they may encounter Toby Green) to Macchu Pichu, across to La Paz and then north to Quito in Ecuador.

What particularly impressed the judges about this couple from North Shields, Tyne and Wear, was the efforts they had made to secure the necessary two months off. Both work for local authorities, and were required to pass a succession of bureaucratic hurdles to secure unpaid leave for the trip.

Grandfather's footsteps

James Broad, 31. £1,500

"In 1925, during the course of his surveying work for the Canadian government, Albert Gammon completed a

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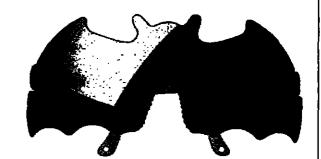






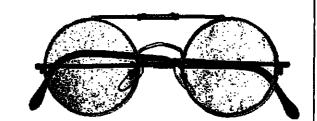


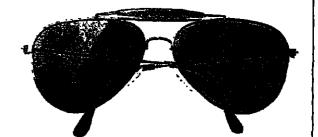
















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of adventure

350-mile canoe trip down the river that now bears his name. Seventy-one years later, the area through which the river flows is still wild, uninhabited and rarely visited. Referring to his original notes and clarts, I will repeat his journey along the Gammon and Bloodysin rivers. Albert Gammon was my grandfather."

James is a designer living in Gloucestershire. He has already bought a canoe in Canada using an advertisement on the Internet (and a Canadian contact to check it over). A substantial chunk of the cash will be spent on chartering a float-plane to deposit him and his canoe on Red Lake, Ontario. Then it is downriver all the way to Lake Winnipeg. "This will almost certainly be the first repeat of the route."

A global pilgrimage

Babar Javed, 27. £6,000

"I want to visit the 24 sites of greatest historical, cultural and spiritual significance to nankind. Nobody has yet visited all of the most important sites in the world in a

single journey; it will provide aunique insight into the peoples, places and practices of the world.

Babar, a student from Croyded, does not do things by halves. The panel could have spett a week arguing about his choice of sites (why select Sanarkand but not St Petersburg, Adam's Peak but not Anaconagua?), but all were impressed by the degree of planing – and the 10-minute video presentation that accompanied the minute video presentation that accompanied the application.

Babar will be using public transpor wherever possible, and plans to stay in private homes, but he expects the trip to cost £16,000. He has already raised £(0,000, so the judges were pleased to provide the necessary funding to get him under way."I will be the first glotal pilgrim," he promised. The judges' generosity was mach only by their collective envy.

In the steps of the Inuit

Ruth Patterson, 35. £3,300

"I plan to follow the ancient Eskimo migrathry routes from north-east Alaska, across Canada and ato Greenland. Hopefully, by spending time withthe Inuit, I'll also be able to learn about their art and mythology.

Ruth is a sculptor living in Bath, and she is articularly interested in Eskimo sculpture. She will travelbetween
July and September - the Arctic summer - and she hopes her time will allow her to learn and develop new techniques. Little is documented about the mypology of the Inuit and she has not ruled out the idea of pending some of her time collecting stories for a book tube written on her return.

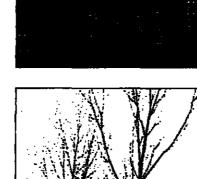
To gather information for her trip, Ruth used the Internet and, on her arrival in Alaska, she will be meeting up with some of the people who have helped he prepare for her journey.













Dreams coming true. From top to bottom: Alexander Hopkins, Ruth Patterson, Babar Javed and James Broad Above right: Limo Ncocha Lake, Nape river. Ecuador Right: gipsies in

Barry Lewis/Network

Robert Hartding Picture Library

DAY TRIPPER

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Activity House

est.

Smoked puffin and bananas on ice

Sue Gaisford had a surreal 24 hours in Iceland

ntil the photographs came back from the chemist, I wasn't convinced that I'd been to Iceland. The whole thing could quite imparting information in such a low singeasily have been a dream - except for the

We were popping into Reykjavik on our way back from America. Spring had just happened in Boston and we left the city on warm, hazy evening. Four hours later, at Keflavik airport, it was sunrise: it felt like the frosty dawn of the earth.

In the thin, bright light the sky was speedwell blue. The dark land appeared flat, stretching towards snow-capped mountains, but on closer inspection it was lumpy and furry, as if ploughed by a giant at the end of autumn and then forgotten. The clear air was sharp as grapefruit juice and our previously bedraggled party brightened to meet it, stepping out towards the bus which was to present us with the glories of Iceland in a day.

First stop: the Blue Grotto. This has more in common with Lourdes than Capri. Near-miracle cures are reported from psoriasis sufferers who have bathed in this warm, round, sulphurous pond, scraping the sediment from the bottom and plastering their skin with it. You can buy tubes of the mud. I did - although I don't have osoriasis you never know when it might

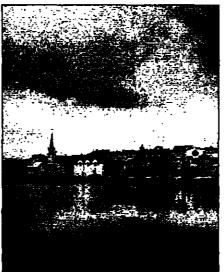
song, soporific voice that you'd want to employ him to read the children to sleep.

Next thing I knew I was staring at a bunch of bananas and wondering if we were in Jamaica. No, it was a greenhouse, heated as is the whole of the country - by hot water bubbling just below the surface. The bananas were ripe and shoulder high, but no little vandals would nick them. In spite of their roistering Viking history, Icelanders are extremely well behaved: in 1994 there were only four muggings, all of them in central Reykjavik, all after 3am.
Impressed, we tottered out, but reality

slipped again at the sight of the well outside. There it sat, alone and steaming like some witchy supply source. It makes sense when you think about it - but there was no time for that.

Back on the bus, another snooze, and there we were on the fringe of a volcanic crater, filled with blue water. Peter just had time to tell us that volcanoes erupt every five years before we all dropped off again, dimly grasping that it was four and three quarter

years since the last explosion here.
We really woke up for Gullfoss waterfall. I'd never seen one so impressive, though a Scot among us muttered loyally that he had, in the Highlands. It was enough to keep us We picked up a guide whose name was Peter, and who know absolutely everything to the edge, to learn that last year a tourist



had fallen over and, aargh, his body had

never been found. The man from IcelandAir must have been dreaming of fish, because he awoke suddenly, his mouth pointing at the roof of the bus, gasping. We all gasped then, for we were at Geisir, the place that gave its name to geysers. On a rocky platform we stood around the edge of a hole full of sloshing water. It looked like the type of hot bath you leap out of quickly. As we watched, the surface gathered and became a huge, blue bubble and then, suddenly, spouted boiling water 30-feet into the air. Happily there was no wind, or Revicajavik: extremely well-behaved

several sleepy tourists might have had an unwelcome scalding.

Time for lunch, at the Geisir hotel. Sitting at school-type dinner tables, we relished some salmon and a beer or two before our postprandial nap took us to the top of the world. Here was the place where the first parliament was held, some 700 years ago. It was called the Althing, and it sits at the very spot where the tectonic plates are moving slowly apart. Well, usually slowly. Every hundred years there is another earthquake on this site, which is a continuation of the notorious San Andreas fault. They haven't had one now for 99 and threequarter years. We moved on rapidly.

At some point in the afternoon we were in a shop that sold bright, woolly jumpers. That's where I got the slippers. There are twice as many sheep as people in this country and they don't miss a chance to flog you some knitting.

Then it was evening, though daylight remorselessly continued. Our dinner featured smoked puffin. This is the only country whose national symbol is also their favourite dish. I'm slightly ashamed to say that it was delicious.

On double overdrive now, some of our party caroused the night away at the Rejkjavik Bar, but I had had enough. I left such partying - and the trip to a glacier and a ride on the sturdy, hairy little horses - for another time. For now, I'm glad to have the photos, and the cosiest slippers in the world.

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t last: a benefit from rail pri-Avatisation - free upgrades to first class. The Government is spending a fortune on promoting the virtues of selling off the railways, and at the same time stretching the public's credulity to the limit. The latest issue of Rail Privatisation Update trills about the benefits of competition. It fails to mention that if you wish to use public transport between, say, Derby and London, you can choose between a bus operated by National Express or a train operated by...

National Express. The rule book that seeks to gov-National Conditions of Carriage. In case all the Railtrack sell-off advertisements (what? no trains?) have set you wondering what a train actually looks like, you will find the useful tip that "the term 'train' includes any road vehicle owned or operated by a train company".

Buried amongst all the befuddlement, however, is the promise for rail travellers of free upgrades to first class. Next time you find



CALDER

yourself on a train where there is standing room only in second (sorry, standard) class, try quoting this at the guard (sorry, senior conductor): "If you have a standard class ticket and no standard class accommodation is available, with the prior permission of the ticket ern this desperate muddle is the staff on that train you may travel in first class accommodation without

extra charge." In other words, when second class is full but first class isn't you should demand an upgrade. Drop section 1, part 1, condition 36 (b) into your conversation with the ticket inspector. And good luck.

Can anyone offer a foolproof way Uto deal with rogue taxi drivers? It must be possible to devise a system

for avoiding ludicrously high fares. British cabbies are models of rectitude compared with their foreign counterparts.

Travelling between Venice airport and the nearest rail station, I found myself taken for a ride in two senses. The taxi had a functioning meter. The driver knew, however, that the newly arrived traveller had no knowledge of the intricacies of the charging system. So he switched the tariff to its highest, and loaded on £4 worth of extras. This was in the middle of the day, in the middle of the week, when charges tend to be at their lowest whether you are in Italy or Islington. I was travelling alone with min-

imal luggage. The 10km, 10-minute journey clocked £17. As I clambered out, he pressed a button and magically added 10 per cent to the total. Deftly rounding this up to award himself a tip, I was left £20 out of pocket. A colleague later said this was rather more than twice the going rate. So where did I go

Can us mee on 0500 246 246.

On the ridge above us a frieze of Zulu warnors appeared in full battle dress

By Diana Constance

T-BAD

outh Africa today is much more than wide beaches and game parks; it is a tonic for the disillusioned spirit. We wanted to visit the homelands; particularly the Transkei of President Mandela, but the poverty and uncontrolled industrial development has left little of the traditional Xhosa life and culture. So it was to Mandela's chief headache, the Zulus, that we went. They have had a bad press and are certainly a fierce and nationalistic people, but this has enabled their unique culture to survive.

We left the normal tourist routes and crossed the border from Natai at the Tugele bridge, fol-lowing the line of march of Lord Chelmsford, who invaded Zululand in 1879.

A woman, sitting proudly like an elegant sentinel in a blue cloak, with the elaborately beaded headdress of the Zulu matron, marked the boundary. The road then became filled with other women wearing tribal dress who were carrying pots and bundles on their heads to the market. This resembled a car-boot sale, which are the public transport of black South Africa. The air was full of the lowing of the Zulus' fat cattle, along with the pungent smell of roasting mealies (ears of maize). But we were the chief attraction; there are no busloads of tourists here.

We were on our way to a Zulu pioneer camp, the geographical location of which we had only the vaguest idea and since it was getting late we were fearful of not locating our pick-up point. Finally we saw on the crest of a ridge what looked like a posse of four cowboys out of a John Wayne film. Our reception committee was led by Vincent, a gnarled and bearded Zulu, who we later found out had been a grip on the

The sight of our transport was daunting, a spirited grey stallion and a gentle chestnut mare. "You can ride with the luggage in the bullock cart if you prefer, but horseback will be more comfortable," said Vincent. We found out why, after a one-and-a-half hour ride down the mountain side. Vincent pointed out a particu-larly rocky descent which they call O My God hill. I asked why and he explained with a grin that the tourists in the bullock cart always cry "O my God" at this place.

As the light faded in the hills we found ourselves part of a cattle drive as a herd of blackuploying "combies" - the battered mini-yans and-white Nguni cattle streamed out of the

(or barbecue) in the valley and we crossed a wide sandstone drift in the shallow river. A Zulu woman in a blue toga appeared suddenly out afternoons after a canter up the valley, is a nat-

of this apparent wilderness with a plastic cool bag over one shoulder filled with gin and tonics, wine and meat, and in the other hand two lighted brands.

The tracker piled up driftwood and we ate our grilled steak by the firelight and listened to Vincent's tales of his people. A single kerosene lamp lit our way in the darkness as we rode back across the river towards camp.

Suddenly, from the ridge above us, the flare of torches illuminated a frieze of Zulu warriors in full battle dress. The noise of drums and asseguis - spears - rattling on shields was deafening. Warriors and boys (all from the local school) threw their torches on dry tinder and leapt through the flames of the fire, hurling their asseguis at imaginary prey. Then, with tri-umphal song and the women's ululations, they led us, still mounted, into camp like returning

We spent three days with the Biela people from Shaka's clan. The individual thatched lodges of the camp, which accommodate only s in total, are built into the rocky f thorn thickets for the evening roundup back to the kraal.

Vincent reined us in for sundowners and brei pool was heated in a wood-fired boiler. The swimming pool, which we enjoyed on warm

and filtered.

Vincent became our friend and mentor, teaching us Zulu ways as we visited the clan's kraal - shouting at the entrance to receive permission to enter. The kraal consisted of a circle of very large beehive huts, made of finely woven reeds and grass which are renewed each year. At the centre stood the pride and wealth of the clan, the cattle. A familiar smell drew us to the beer-making hut, where one of the chief's wives was straining the fermented brew through

a fine-mesh basket. Then Vincent invited us to a coming of age ceremony in a nearby kraal. The young men were home from the gold mines for the holiday. We piled into a pick-up truck and as we bounced over rutted tracks Vincent pointed out a circular thatched but flying two red-and-white engagement flags. "That man is marrying two women," he said.

When we arrived the dancing had already started, the heavy drum beat and young Zulu, bounced back from the hills. The male relatives squatted in a long line on the grass while the young women - who were coming of age - danced bare-breasted, wearing only the traditional heavy leather skirts intended to traditional heavy leather skirts, intended to slow up flighty wives. Anklets, made of tin cans,

rattled as they kicked and stamped out the rhythns, advancing towards the men with assegus which they laid at their feet. The men took up their challenge and advanced with warlike laps - only to pin dowry money into the

We were the only white present and were treated like long-lost friends. The men kept shaing our hands and holding us, saying "Sinunye" again and again, which means "we are together".

How to get there

Disount fares to South Africa are widely available. The cheapest flights from London to Johannesburg are usually to be found on Sudan Airvays via Khartourn or Balkan Bulgarian via Sofa, Non-stop flights on British Airways or South Afrian Airways cost around £670 including tax and are available through agents such as Bridge The Norld (0171-911 0900)

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Trouble spots

Advice on Africa from our man in the Foreign Office:

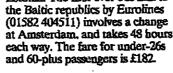
Mozambique: "Armed banditry has sharply increased. While robbery has been the main motive, attacks have been unnecessarily vicious and in some cases fatal. Travel by road only between 8am and 3pm, if possible in the company of two or more vehicles."

Uganda: "Do not travel to the area north of the Nile and west of Gulu. Before travelling up country, consult the Consular Section of the British High Commission in Kampala (257054)."

Cameroon: "If you are travelling between Maroua and the border with Chad, seek advice from local police and be prepared to travel with a military escort."

Central African Republic: "The British Honorary Consul in Bangui can give only limited assistance in an emergency. The French or German Embassies will offer help in an emergency."

> Foreign Office travel advice is available on 0171-238 4503: on BBC-2 Ceefax from page 564 onwards and on the Internet at http://www.fco.gov.uk



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"How easily you forget what depth and detail went into publications – and how mechanisation takes over." - Michael I, Cardiff.

> The Travel Archive is at 45 Berkeley Street, London W1A LEB and is open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays, 11am-3pm, strictly by appointment; call Jill Lomer on 0171-408



WORLD DEPARTURES

Take skirts with elasticated waistbands" was one of the top tips at last summer's Female Eye event in London. Lyn Hughes of Wanderlust magazine provided this advice for dealing with the weight changes that are inevitable when travelling in the developing world; she will be one of the speakers at this year's event, to be held on 1 June at the Commonwealth Institute in west London.

"The aim is to inform and inspire on all aspects of travelling as a woman" says the organiser, Lyn Baker. Tickets (£20) should be booked in advance on 01628 62528.

The vast archipelago that comprises Indonesia stretches 3,000 miles from one end to the other. So the Visit Indonesia Pass offered by the national airline Garuda Indonesia (0171-486

301:) is well worth considering. For three flight sectors you pay \$300 (£200), for five \$500 (£333); additional legs are \$110 (£70) each. The airpass covers Sumatra, Java, Indonesian Borneo, Bali, Sulawsi, the Moluccas and Irian Jaya. You need evidence of residence abroad to buy the ticket.

From the end of this month, American Airlines I will ban smoking on transatlantic flights. All 133 UK to US services become non-smoking, as do connecting flights to the Caribbean.

This week Air Jamaica is due to begin services from the UK to the Caribbean after a gap of 11 years. The airline (0181-570 7999) will initially offer three flights per week from Heathrow to both Kingston and Montego Bay.





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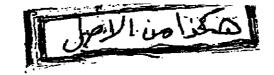
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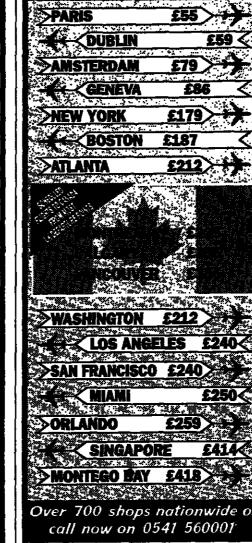
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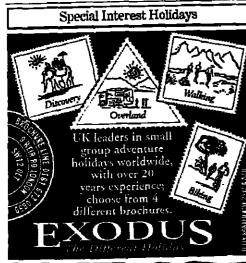
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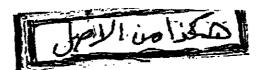
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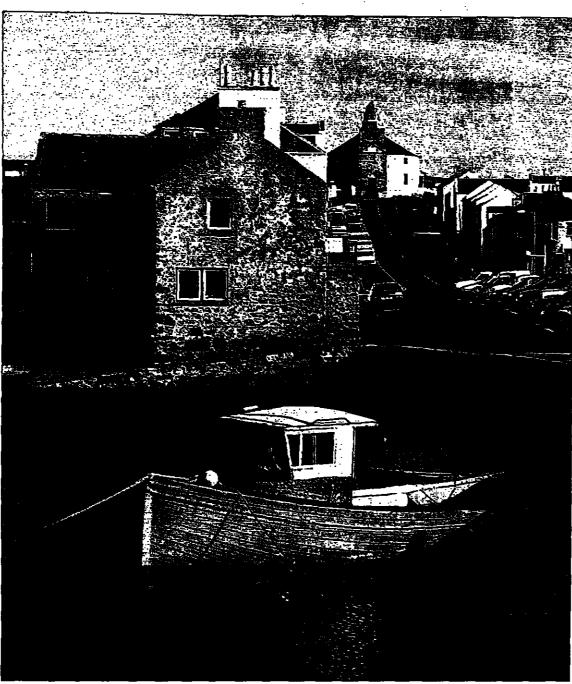
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Island of whisky, wool and wildlife

You name it, they have it on Islay: old-fashioned weaving, golden sands, rare birds and seals that like human voices. By Fiona MacAulay



ccording to the locals they use the fire-engines at Islay airport to check the runway for stray sheep. Be that as it may, land-ing at Glenegedale by plane is a totally different experience to our normal understanding of modern air travel. There is no queuing or security, nor are there announcements over the tannoy at this tiny island airport - and the firemen unload the baggage by

Islay was briefly in the headlines two years ago when Prince Charles crash-landed his plane during a royal visit. It is an enchanting place. The most southerly link in the Hebridean chain of islands, it has a climate much milder than that of most of the northern region, due to its position in the Gulf Stream. Historically it has been better cared for than most of the island communities and as a result is less barren and has areas of lush and productive

The administrative capital is Bowmore. It is a fine looking town on Loch Indaal and one of the earliest to be built on a grid system. It is dominated by an 18th-century round church (so the devil can't hide in the corners) and the pagoda towers of Bowmore distillery. The prettiest villages on Islay, though, are on the Rhinns, the western arm of the island. Portnahaven and Port Wennyss cluster around a sheltered harbour protected by the tiny island of Orsay. In the interests of economy these two villages share a church, but each has its own path and entrance.

Port Charlotte, further north, has two excellent museums: The Islay Field Centre and The Museum of Islay Life. Here some intriguing objects are on dis-play – an illegal whisky still and the shoes worn by the horses that "mowed" the lawn at Islay House, the principal mansion on the island. Port Ellen, on the east side of the island, is a picturesque port built by the laird of Islay - Walter Frederick of Shawfield - at the beginning of the 19th century and named after his wife.

For those wanting to go shopping, Tormisdale Croft between Port Charlotte and Portnahaven has hand-knitted woollens. It is one of the few places in Scotland where you can still see traditional spinning and naturally dyed wool (nettle, meadowsweet and thistle are just some of the plants used for dyes). The Islay Woollen Mill near Bridgend makes tweed regarded as among the

Six of the best things to do around Islay

Catch the ferry to Colonsay (Wednesday only, 10 April - 9 October). Here you can explore Kiloran Bay and the gardens of Kiloran.

Make a pilgrimage to George Orwell's house in Jura (Regular ferries to Jura from Port Askaig throughout the day). While you're there, visit the gardens of Jura House where there's an excellent shoreline walk with views over to Islay. The Jura Fell Race (up and down the three Paps of Jura) takes place on 25

Play a round of golf at Islay's Machine 18-hole golf course. Go pony trekking from Rockside Farm, Bruichladdich - riding on the beach at Machir Bay and on the cliff tops above Kilchoman

Explore the sea from the Islay Dive Centre at Port Ellen. Visit the Islay Festival this year which takes place from 24 May to June 8 (01496 302413 for more details).

best in the country. The cloth for Brave-heart and Rob Roy and a clutch of other Hollywood movies was made there on two Victorian looms.

Beachcombers will be in their element on Islay and should go equipped with an Ordnance Survey map which marks all the sandy shorelines. The beaches have pale golden sand and are almost deserted. The Big Strand at Laggan Bay is seven miles long and is not to be confused with The Strand at the top of Loch Indaal, the preferred haunt of the locals. At Claggain Bay the beach has pebbles in the most beauti-ful colours. Kilchoman beach at Machir Bay has spectacular raised beaches and Tayovullin on the western shore of Loch Gruinart is known for its dunes. It is also a favourite spot for seals which are said to be attracted in shore by the sound of voices, particularly the high-pitched chatter of children.

There's plenty more wildlife - with over 200 species of birds, the rare corncrake and chough in particular. Islay is the wintering ground for two thirds of the world population of Greenland Barnacle geese and a third of the Greenland White-fronted geese. In previous years they have caused much anxiety and loss of income to farmers by eating the shoots of young grass. However, a goose subsidy has now been introduced to compensate farmers for

their losses. This necessitates the employment of two full time "goosecounters" during the winter as the sub-sidy is calculated per goose.

If the living don't appeal, try the dead. Among a wealth of archaeologi-cal sites on the island, Finlaggan is the most significant. It was the headquarters of the Macdonald Lords of the Isles, who ruled the north-western seaboard until they were forced to forfeit their lands and titles to James IV of Scotland in 1493. There is a small visitor's centre and in the summer an archaeological team from the National Museums of Scotland may be found working on the site. There are the Iron Age forts of Dun Nosebridge and Dun Choisprig to be explored and standing stones from the Bronze Age, of which the 16ft monolith at Ballinby is the finest example. The Vikings colonised Islay, followed by the Norse and there are still traces of their deserted farms and villages etched on the landscape. But it was the early Christians who left the finest legacy in the form of several exquisitely carved stone crosses. The High Cross of Kildalton, dating from about AD800, is the best known but the Kilchoman cross from about AD1400 is also worth seeing.

Last but not least, no visit to Islay would be complete without a comprehensive study of the Islay malt whiskies – Lagavulin, Bunnahabhain, Laphroaig, Bowmore and Caol Ila. Learn to pronounce them before you try them ... Guided tours can be arranged to all the distilleries - Bowmore's is probably the slickest as they have set up a smart vis-itors centre and shop, but you might pre-fer something a little less polished.

How to get there

Vou can reach Islay on the Caledonian MacBayne ferry from Kennacraig. There is also a daily flight on British Airways (0345 222111) from Glasgow and nearby islands.

Who to ask

The Scottish Tourist Boad is at 17 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5BL (0171-930 8661). They sell an unlimited travel ticket for railway journeys to and within Scotland. Or try the Tourist Information Centre, 3 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2QP (0131-557 1700). The Islay Tourist Board is on 01496 810 254.

if anyone can Canon can

Where Richard II came to a sticky end

The town where a king was killed became a great place for growing figuorice. By Theresa Allen

f you are a lover of liquorice then Pontefract is not just a last resort, it is the only resort. History has been less than kind to Pontefract. Shakespeare cruelly immortalised the town as "Bloody Pomfret" because of the death at Pontefract Castle (in mysterious circumstances) of Richard II. The 11th-century castle, an architectural miracle of its time, was where Richard was imprisoned. It was almost completely razed to the ground at the end of the Civil War, as punishment for Pontefract being the last royalist base to hold out against Cromwell's Parliament, despite being under seige three times. Happily, and perhaps ironically, Pontefract is now a good stopping off point for what the local museum curator describes as "Yorkshire castle hoppers".

Shortly after the end of the Civil War, liquorice bush, particularly hard to cultivate in this country, started to bloom in the castle ruins, due apparently to the suitability of the loam. An enterreate the famous Pontefract cake. yes - liquorice. This is not, as a bakery in the centre



cular confectionery defiantly stamped with the insignia of the rebel coins made at Pontefract Castle during the

The liquorice industry boomed and by the beginning of this century there were 26 manufacturers in the town, many with lively imaginations. An exhibition in the local History Museum displays some unexpected liquorice artefacts, including a giant ornamental teapot made entirely from luminous shades of the sticky stuff. In 1874, memories of the Sieges of Pontefract were perhaps still sufficiently fresh for the town to seal prising local devised a recipe incor- down its ballot box in the first ever porating treacle and liquorice stem to secret parliamentary election with -

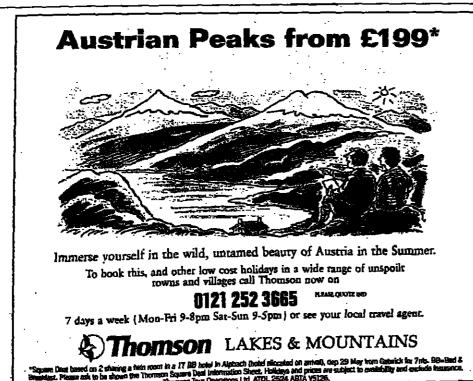
Alighting at Tanshelf, one of Ponof Pontefract explains with weary tefract's three railway stations, the patience, a cake at all. It is a small, cir-odour of liquorice is still unmistakable.

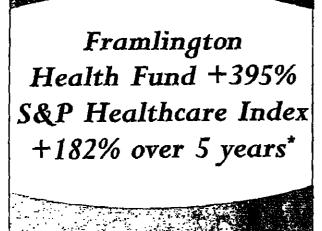
Yet commercial cultivation of liquorice in Pontefract ceased in 1966, and the stuff is now imported from France where it is cheaper and easier to grow.

An import from abroad - the European Development Fund to be exact has recently reopened Tanshelf station, which was closed for 30 years, and has improved the other two stations. But, according to a local taxi driver, all three of them are a little too far from the ruins of the castle, the pleasant pedestrianised town centre which has retained its medieval street names and is about to be re-paved, courtesy of the National Lottery), and the racecourse, to benefit many except those in his line of work.

Most visitors come to see the castle ruins and leave only a little wiser about the liquorice past. Now, rather than allow the memory of liquoricegrowing industry to be forgotten, the tourist authority this year is promoting a Liquorice Trail around the town. This visits the fields where liquorice was once grown, as well as two disused liquorice factories. And the Camra award-winning Tap and Spittle pub in the town centre still occasionally serves liquorice beer. After all, it takes all sorts to make a resort.







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Partners in care

The Government is on the verge of introducing a new regime for long-term care. Clifford German reports

partnership to prevent term care from having to sell their homes to pay the bills, provided they have taken out a measure of insurance to cover the initial costs, could take effect within 12 months if the proposals win all-party support.

The Green Paper was published last Tuesday and the Government has set a deadline of 14 June for detailed comments from interested parties. Detailed pro-posals could be ready for publi-cation in the November Budget and could be effective from the

start of the next financial year.

start of the next financial year.

But there are still loose ends to tie up, and Help the Aged still thinks it will fail older people who are not eligible for automatic state support but cannot afford the premiums to pay for the insurance in the first place.

The Government has proposed two alternative forms of partnership, one that would guarantee to exempt £1.50 worth of assets, including the family home, from means-testing for every £1 worth of insurance the individual has bought.

bought.
It would mean in effect that anyone who needs residential or anyone who needs residential or nursing care and has bought, say, £40,000 worth of benefit from an insurance company would be able to keep assets worth £60,000, plus the existing £16,000 allowance, and still qualify for state support when the benefit has been used up. been used up.

An alternative proposal would protect only £1 of assets for each £1 insured benefit, but would increase the threshold by a further £15,000, which some industry sources argue would be more favourable to wealthier people,

he Government's plans for and perhaps less costly to the

Contrary to some initial fears it is claimed that the plans would not be prohibitively expensive for wealthier people. The average cost of residential care is currently around £15,000 a year in the North of England, rising to more than £20,000 in the South-east, with an additional £5,000 for

But this is within the reach of many people on substantial pensions, who can expect to pay for care out of income without having to run down capital or sell the homes they hope to pass on to their children.

Many others can obtain a lim-ited amount of extra cover indefinitely by taking out existing long-term care policies issued by industry stalwarts like Commer-cial Union, PPP Lifetime and

Bupa.

These providers have already undertaken that existing policyholders will not be disadvantaged by the introduction of partnership policies, but the general view is that relatively few policy-holders would want or need to switch to a new-style policy.

The Government's plans are targeted mainly at middle-class families that do not currently qualify for state support because they have assets in excess of £16,000, but cannot afford the premiums to buy insurance, and are therefore forced eventually to sell their homes to pay for con-tinued care. An estimated 40,000 homes have to be sold each year since the Government forced local authorities to start charging local residents for care three

But the average lump-sum payment to buy £15,000 a year of



long-term care insurance for a 65year-old man in good health is £10,000 or perhaps £75 a month until the care is needed. For a woman the costs could be 50 per

It is possible to buy insurance up to the age of 85 but rates rise with age and individuals must still be in good general health to

Partnership plans could reduce emiums by a third, but lobby groups describe the proposals as a tax on the elderly, and too little too late for those already in poor health.

Commercial Union, however, points out that many people only need to buy a top-up to secure prospective pensioners are

still be able to raise the capital to pay for insurance by taking out a Home Income Plan to release part of the equity from their nomes, while in their own interests families ought to be willing to help pay the cost of premiums for elderly parents in order to help protect their own prospects of

heriting something substantial. The Government also proposes to allow individuals to forgo some of their pension early in retirement in order to pay premiums for long-term care should it be necessary, but the National Association of Pension Funds is con-

their assets, older people should already facing retirement on marshould not be encouraged to LOOSE

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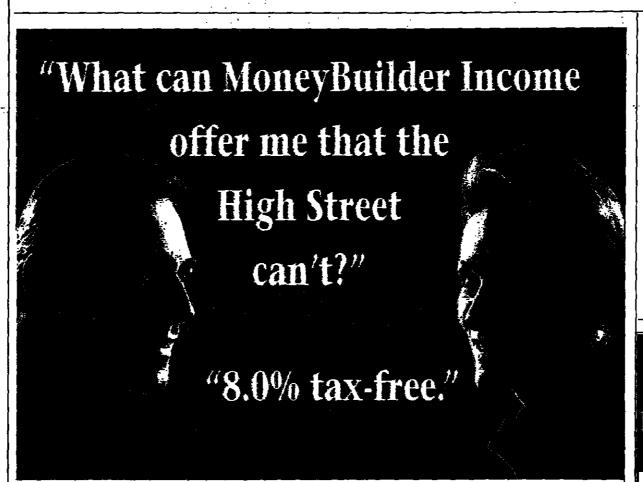
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deplete their incomes further. Issues that still remain to be resolved include the extent to which the Government will be willing to encourage support for elderly people who have failed some of the tests for continuing to live at home, but are reluctant to leave home if they can receive

home help.

Another is the minimum and maximum standards of care that individuals can expect if they take out a partnership plan. A third issue is the regulations needed to cerned that the majority of supervise an expanded care



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niff the air in the City these days and it doesn't take a genius to sense that the prospect of a Labour govern-Ument is beginning to enter in earnest into investors' calculations. A week is an even longer time in the City than in politics, but with the next general election now a year at most away, the probability that Tony Blair will be the next occupant of Downing Street is for the first time clearly being discounted seri-

The diminishing scope for tax cuts looks a critical final nail in the Major government's coffin. NatWest's leaked advice to its private clients to avoid the Railtrack privatisation issue is one interwarning that the regulatory and political risk is higher in this issue than in previous privatisations is, I suspect, no more than a roundabout way of saying that it expects Labour to win the next election. This tide of gathering concern is

is the widespread feeling in the boardrooms of Britain's big companies that

deals before the election is rapidly drawing to a close, despite the corporate financiers' frantic efforts to sustain the momentum of bids. Indeed, the Government's seemingly political decision to block the power generators' bids for regional electricity connpanies suggests that the "anything goes" days of the last few years may already be over.

Already we are seeing the first fruits of the inevitable "What will a Labour government mean?" type of research emerging from brokers and tax advisers. And there is also a discernible shift in the City's attitude towards Labour policy. Polite but studied indifference is giving way to a recognition that now esting straw in the wind. The bank's it really is time to start ploughing through the minutiae of policy documents for clues as to what may happen if - or, more probably, when - the Gov-

Another sign of the changing climate consistent with the view that the stock market at least is likely to be relatively



JONATHAN DAVIS **INVESTMENTS**

downward trend on Wall Street - five straight down days in a row up to last Wednesday - is indeed the first sign of the significant market correction on the other side of the Atlantic that so many have been anticipating for so long.

What might a Labour victory mean

for the markets? I have been chewing over the outlook in this new climate with rooms of Britain's big companies that weak in the second half of the year. The the window for completing bids and trend will accelerate if the current gist with the brokers Phillips & Drew,

and now the markets-watcher at the inflationary pressures, that should guard ernments trying to achieve modest London Bond Broking Company, a against gilts again becoming the wealth-boutique research firm he helped to set destruction machine they were last time up after Big Bang. His feeling is that a round. (Anyone who bought gilts a year Labour victory may well be more serious for the stock market than it is for gilts, although neither market clearly is likely to be affected as dramatically as they were the last time Labour took power, in the dark days of the 1970s. A Labour government of the traditional big-spending, inflationary sort would be expected to shy investors out of gilts and into equities. But that recipe looks too pat this time around. Rather, assuming that Labour pronouncements can be trusted, we have the prospect of a new government pursuing a tight fiscal pol-icy to meet the Maastricht criteria and also pursuing a stable exchange rate policy of some sort. Companies meanwhile will be wrestling with the impact of the Social Chapter and a generally more restrained operating environment, which will serve to put a cap on poten-

tial profits and dividend growth.

destruction machine they were last time before the Labour victory in 1974 would have seen their investment fall by nearly 40 per cent in real terms over the next six years. Likewise, anyone who bought gilts the year before Labour's 1964 victory would have lost 20 per cent of their investment by 1970). In fact, Lewis concludes, with inflation at under 3 per cent and yields on medium-term issues above 8 per cent, gilts do not look bad value for the risk involved (though he reckons that Canadian and German bonds, with real yields of 6 per cent and 5 per cent respecively, look better bets still. He also likes US bonds).

And that, anyway, is how it may well appear to US investors, who - Lewis predicts - will be the first out of their traps to buy gilts if a Blair victory is confirmed in the election. From a US perspective, a Labour victory will seem to fit the pattern visible elsewhere in Against a background of still-subdued Europe of centre and centre-left gov-

social objectives within a framework of restrictive fiscal policies.

It is, says Lewis, one of the paradoxes of the modern international investment arena that foreign investors are often the ones who see the dynamics of a market more clearly than their domestic counterparts. It is American investors who tend to get cleaned out in the Treasuries market and who get carried away with the excitement of a strong run on Wall Street. Even the Germans are often blinded by their faith in the strength of the mark. So it may prove to be with the election.

Politics inevitably involves emotions, and there is no doubt that there is still a residual fear in many quarters of the City about what a Labour government might mean. But this time around, there are genuine grounds for thinking that the transition will be less painful for investors than it has been in the past, even if it will take time for the Labour Party's intentions towards Railtrack to



Indowments Direct, one of free £100 overdraft facility. The Lthe specialist brokers matching buyers and sellers of second-hand endowment policies, is launching a 24-hour-a-day world-wide trading system through ED's site on the Internet, by-passing auctions and postal sales.

Sellers can register policy details for £30 (waived in the first two months from launch), and buyers can input bids until a policy is sold. Bids are also accepted via telephone, fax, Email or post.

endowment policies were sold in the UK last year, and demand for policies issued by companies that may pay bonuses as a result of takeovers or conversion to public companies is particularly brisk.

But most of the 500,000 unwanted policies each year are still surrendered to the insurance companies that issued them, according to ED's managing director, Julian Knopf.

can buy with a fixed sum of pletion fee of £295 and a valumoney, have been rising since the start of the year and made a further jump in the last week as a result of the Government's poor performance in the local elections.

Generali, Standard Life and annuity they pay for a fixed sum by between 2 per cent and 5 per cent in the last two weeks and rates are back to their highest levels since last July.

Peter Quinton, managing director of the Annuity Bureau, says anyone considering whether to cash their investments and buy an annuity now has to consider the possibility that the stock market might fall, reducing the capital they have available, but annuity rates might continue to rise if they

Darciays Bank has launched a

bank says it is based on extensive research into what customers really want from a current account.

Other add-ons include a free will-writing service, an automatic £5,000 life cover (£5,000 medical cover for children under 21 at a cheap rate of £2.50 a month and access to Barclaycall telephone banking. There is a charge of £5 a

month for the account, however, and some critics, espe-More than £165m worth of cially Terry Thomas, the chairman of the Cooperative Bank, one of the pioneers of free banking, claim the account is the thin end of a wedge that could bring a end to free banking for customers in credit. Barclays insists the account

is just an option alongside its standard current account.

Ceneral Accident Life has Claunched a new fixed-rate mortgage at 7.2 per cent until January 2000. The rate rises by 0.24 per cent if the lender's Annuity rates, which decide house and contents insurance is Thow much pension investors not also taken, there is a comation fee of £99 and a mortgage indemnity guarantee policy is required for loans greater than 75 per cent of the valuation, but first-time buyers can consolidate them into the loan even if it takes them above 95 per cent Swiss Life have increased the loan to value. Redemption penalties of six months' interest are charged on the sums redeemed before January 2000, but the loan can be transferred without penalty on moving

> radford & Bingley Building DSociety has announced a two-year fixedrate mortgage of 5 per cent and a three-year fixed rate of 6.50 per cent, both for up to 85 per cent loans to value of the property.

Add 0.25 per cent for loans between 85 per cent and 95 per and 44 per cent in Northern cent of value and a further Ireland, but the proportion 0.25 per cent if the society's rises to more than half every-Dnew "silver service" current insurance is not taken. The account with extras including a arrangement fee is £295 and the

redemption penalty six months'

To coincide with the FA Cup

Final today NatWest Bank is introducing a special service allowing customers to trade in each for joint accounts), private shares in the three football clubs listed on the main market, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur and Millwall, and the three clubs listed on the AIM, Chelsea, Celtic and Preston. Prices can be watched and deals done on the instant sharedealing screen in 280 branches, but the bank is not offering any special deals

> Cubsidence claims are set to Osoar by at least 50 per cent this year, and not even a wet summer can stop the trend, according to the Chartered Institute of Loss Adjusters.

Claims rose from £125m in 1994 to £325m last year, with all the increase in the last half of last year, and insurance premiums may have to rise.

But some loss adjusters claim that the institute is being alarmist and Guardian Direct claims to be able to reduce premiums for many homeowners in areas considered to be at high risk of subsidence by using more detailed information based on the Geological Survey, to assess true risks.

A quarter of the population of AGreater London and Southeast England is likely to suffer financial hardship in retirement, but the proportion rises to two-thirds in East Anglia, according to a regional survey prepared by Mintel for Flem-Investment Trust

Their definition assumes that anyone retiring on less than 40 per cent of final earnings will face hardship. Almost 40 per cent will face hardship in Scotland and the West Midlands, where else in the UK.

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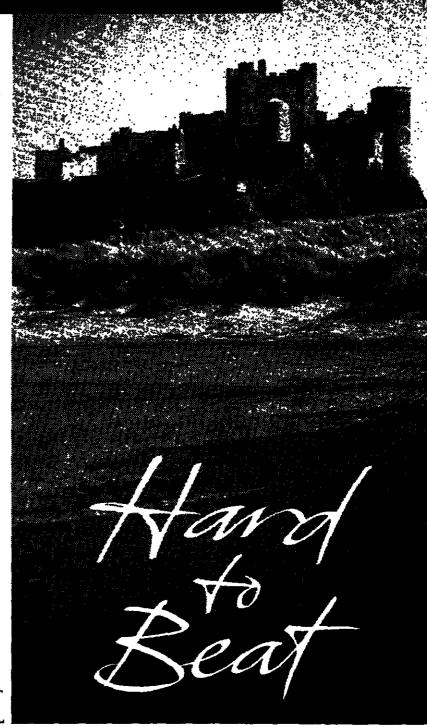
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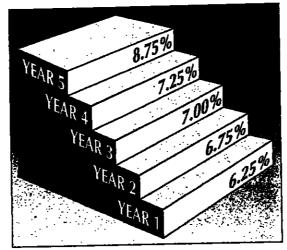
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FEAR OF FINANCE Clifford German

pplications for Railtrack shares have to be in by noon next Wednesday. The minimum application is for 200 shares, and the first installment will come indicate the first installment will come in the content of the first installment will be a supplication of the content of th and the first instalment will cost individual investors who registered with a share shop190p, a downpayment of

next year, will not be decided until 20 dividend of 20.6p. An actual dividend of 13.75p a share net, equal to 17.18p 190p, making a total price of between 340p and 380p.
This makes them something of a

This makes them something of a pig in a poke, but analysts have done the sums and pronounced the shares cheap on most basic criteria.

An interim dividend for the year just started will be paid next Februard a final dividend in October

pany's expected after-tax earnings in 1997. a year which has just ended, those shares are paying a notional dividend of up to 7.5 per cent gross on the current share price, and the dividend is covered a comfortable 2.6 times by

the net earnings per share.

This is only half the average return on shares in the top 100 UK companies, which this week cost an average of almost 15 times their after-tax earnings, the dividends gross up to a bare 4 per cent on the share price and average dividends are covered only 2.13 times by earnings. The figures for the top 250 shares look even less competitive.

By all the classic definitions, Rail- fares.

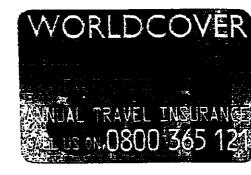
whose votes the Government will hope to rely at election time within the next 12 months.

The calculations are based on esti-The price for the second instalment, payable on or before 3 June mated earnings of 53.8p a share for the year just ended, and a notional a share before tax will be paid on October 4 to all shareholders who are on the register on September 4. This will guarantee a yield of almost 20 per

That should ensure guaranteed appreciation in the share price when dealings begin on 20 May. There is no guarantee that the price of the shares will not fall once the unsatisfied demand from institutions has been satisfied, but the extra dividend provides a cushion on the price, and an incentive for investors not to sell their allocation as soon as trading begins. The Railtrack shares will certainly fall when they go ex dividend in the autumn, however, and thereafter they will be increasingly vulnerable to the election of a Labour government that is determined to hold down rail

track shares are suspiciously cheap.
On any other share it would mean that the City thinks the company's growth prospects are zero and the divergence.

Buy now, but watch for the best time to take a profit is the best advice to would-be Railtrack investors next week.



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guaranteed bonds money

How low-risk can you get?

By Abigail Montrose

here are few things as attractive in the financial services as the word "guarantee". Its pulling power cannot be underestimated, as investors scour the market in search of high returns with little, if any, risk to their capital. But a closer look at what is actually being guaranteed often reveals a less attractive picture.

return over the life of the investment, usually five years. It is possible to buy guaranteed-growth bonds, which usually mean the income is rolled up into a single payment when the investment matures. And it is possible to get a guaranteed return linked to a stock market return. But

inevitably you cannot have all three. Guaranteed-income bonds (GIBs) issued by insurance companies are one of the few products to provide a eties over three years," says Brian set income without risk to your capital. You invest a lump sum for a fixed period of time, typically between one and 10 years, and in return you receive a fixed level of income over that period.

At the end of the term you get your money back in full, but you will not be protected against inflation or increases in interest rates, which usually accompany higher inflation rates.

GIBs are offered by a small band of insurance companies, including Abbey Life, AIG (also known as Alico), Black Horse, Consolidated Life (aka Financial Assurance), GAN Life, Generali, Pinnacle Assurance and Premium Life. Most of the big life companies do not offer GIBs because of their internal tax

Investors have to decide how much they want to invest and for how long, and how often they want income, such as monthly or annually. You then need to look at what rates are on offer for your requirements and choose the best rate available. The attractive option for basic-rate best rates are offered on large amounts invested for longer periods of time on GIBs.

Once you see a rate of interest you are happy with you cannot afford to company is not reclaimable by the hang around, as rates can change overnight. Always check that the

ing exactly how much income you are find out whether they will have to pay going to get, when you are going to any additional tax.

get it and for what period of time. The interest rate you lock into is allimportant as you cannot renegotiate the rate once you've signed up and there are stiff penalties for early withdrawals, if indeed you are allowed to withdraw your money early at all.

GIB rates are based on current interest rates, so with many economists now predicting interest rate rises For one thing, it is crucial to know in the near future GIBs have fallen exactly what is being guaranteed. It out of favour. Investors are unwilling is possible to buy guaranteed-income to lock into GIB rates now as they bonds, which offer a fixed rate of may be considerably more attractive in six or 12 months' time.

Many independent financial advisers are advising clients not to invest in a GIB for too long a period while the outlook for interest rates is this uncertain.

"Beyond three years, people need to be wary of long-term bonds. But with a lot of building societies offering such poor rates, GIBs at least offer a better return than the soci-Dennehy, managing director of the IFA firm Dennehy, Weller & Co.

Graham Hooper, investment director of the independent adviser Chase De Vere, agrees but believes there are a few bonds offering particularly good rates at present that could tempt investors to tie up their

"You need to be selective about the rate you want. There are a few good products available at the moment. Over five years you should be looking for 7 per cent a year," he

The best GIB rates currently available range between 4 per cent on a lump-sum investment for £1,000 for one year, and 7.15 per cent for a minimum investment of £10,000 over five-and-a-half years.

The rates quoted for GIBs are net rates as the insurance company has already paid the tax, so there is no basic rate tax to be paid by the policyholder. This makes GIBs an taxpayers.

But they are not suitable for 20 per

cent taxpayers or non-taxpayers as the tax already paid by the insurance investor. If a GIB is paying an income of more than 5 per cent a rate is still available before investing. year, higher-rate taxpayers need to GIBs provide the security of know- check with the insurance company to

The safe side of the street

For the risk-averse investor, guaranteed-growth bonds look good. Simon Read reports

nvestors seeking capital growth as opposed to income are often drawn to the limited-issue "guaranteed-growth bonds" offered by a number of insurance companies. Guaranteed-growth bonds pay no income, and like guaranteed-income bonds they do not protect you against inflation or rising interest rates, but they do guarantee the return of your original capital, plus a fixed rate of growth paid out when the bond matures.

Insurance companies that have issued such bonds in recent months include Black Horse Life, Eurolife, Hamilton Life, NatWest Life, Pinnacle Insurance, Reliance Mutual and Zurich Life. The minimum investment is typically around £5,000. The bonds are generally issued by the newer or smaller insurance companies, but investors' cash is protected by the Policyholders' Protection Act, which guarantees a 90 per cent payout in the event of the nsurance company failing.

Returns are all paid net of basic-rate tax, which makes the projected growth look even more attractive. However, non-taxpayers cannot reclaim the tax and higher-rate taxpayers have to stump up the difference between basicrate tax and their own tax rate.

These variations on the "guaranteed" theme are lump-sum investments, and so are not suitable for regular savers, and generally offer fixed returns over a set period - usually five

Guaranteed-growth bonds have proven extremely popular with many investors not prepared to take risks with their cash. There has been a trend towards the long-term assurance of growth, as opposed to the roller-coaster rise that is offered by direct investment in the stock market, and guaranteedgrowth bonds currently offer better rates of return than many savings vehicles that carry a similar degree of security, such as building society accounts.

For seriously risk-averse investors it is worth noting that many of the guaranteed-income bonds offered by the life companies are in effect growth bonds in that they offer the option of having the income reinvested to produce guaranteed gains. Johnson Fry's Income Bonus Bond is a typical example. Offered in conjunction with Finan-



The Tokyo stock market: Tipped as a star performer for growth boads

cial Assurance Company, it gives an annual return of 8 per cent or an accumulated return of 55 per cent over five and a half years. It is available until 17 May, but Johnson Fry says it will be launching a new bond from 26 June.

Also coming up is a new bond from Eurolife, which is expected to be similar to its recent 60 per cent growth bond over five years. Independent financial advisers will be able to keep investors informed of further upcoming issues in the bond world.

The main drawbacks with these bonds is their inflexibility. Generally, you will forfeit any of the guarantees offered by the bonds if you are forced to cash them in early. That means you must be prepared to sit out the full length of the bond's term to get the benefits.

Locking in at the wrong fixed rate could also be a mistake if rates subsquently rise, leaving your return looking paltry. Despite that, the bonds issued this year have proven to be very

popular.
"Guaranteed or low-risk investments are of interest to the majority of our customers, who are generally risk-

averse," said Paul Stott of NatWest Life. "They are of most interest to those people who want to invest capital for a specific term in a low-risk environment such as those who are just approaching retirement and who, at the end of the term, plan to draw an income from their cash when they subsequently reinvest it into, say, an meome bond or a corporate bond PEP."

confused with guaranteed-growth bonds linked to the performance of the stock market. These offer investors the guarantee of their capital back, plus a percentage of growth according to how much the stock market has risen. However, if the stock market falls, there will be no growth, just the return of the original capital.

GA Life's Guaranteed Security Portfolio is a typical stock market-linked guaranteed growth bond. Three-quarters of the fund is invested in equities, with the remaining 25 per cent in fixed-interest investments such as gilts. "It's aimed at people who want to get into the stock market but who don't

want to lose their shirts," said Ian Harper of GA Life. "The safety net means that investors never get less than their money back as long as they invest

Buyers of these products should note that it is your capital that is "guaranteed", not the growth!

One aspect of equity investment that holders of these bonds miss out on are the dividends paid by many stocks but, then again, the holders are not risking their money (unlike those in income bonds linked to stock market performance).

Another potential drawback is the fact that many of these "growth" bonds only pay out a percentage of any growth in the stock market, in effect putting a cap on how much money investors can have.

For instance, Black Horse Life's Premier Bond, which is available to new investors until 16 May, offers the greater of either 125 per cent of the original investment or 60 per cent of any growth in the FT-SE 100 Index over the six-year term of the bond. NatWest Life's Guaranteed Growth Plus Bond offers a similar minimum return of 125 per cent, but a maximum return of 170 per cent, over five and a half years.

Recently we have seen the launch of guaranteed-growth bonds investing in other markets. The Japanese stock market, for instance, was tipped to be one of 1996's star performers, which prompted a flurry of bonds investing in that part of the world. Save & Prosper offered a Japanese guaranteed stock market bond providing 120 per cent of Guaranteed-growth bonds that offer a fixed gain at maturity should not be market over three and a half years. This was followed by the Lotus Bond from Sun Alliance, based on the performance of the Nikkei Stock Index 300. It offered to share out growth of at least 135 per cent over five years.

These stock market-related growth bonds are really aimed at the slightly more sophisticated investors who are happy linking their investments to stock market returns.

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money guaranteed bonds

Risk takers: start here

By Christine Stopp

riskiest of the guaranteed fam- start capital back. ily. They attract the investor who can't currently survive on the income from building society done a god deal of research into rates of interest. But a one-point guaranteed investments, points out move on either the UK or the US stock markets could spell the difference between a 50 per cent gain and kets were indeed down over five a 50 per cent loss in your capital over years. five years in one of these bonds.

Just what are these attractive but dangerous vehicles? They are a species of guaranteed bond with complicated built-in rules, tied to stock market performances and be gambling capital on the stock which aim to give high income plus, market. all being well, some or all of your

original capital back. Such bonds have a cut-off date for investment, and a minimum input of up to £5,000. The exact terms for these bonds vary, so it is essential to understand the small print of each bond thoroughly.

A bond currently on offer from Financial Assurance/Johnson Fry being down over the period is offers a potential 10 per cent return over five years. A Financial Assur-ance bond launching in mid-May last year of the bond's life to reduce promises 10.25 per cent. An issue from a large UK insurer is expected in June with a yield of 10.5 per cent. These are far higher yields than a bank or building society can offer, so

bank or building society can oner, so how do they do it?

A typical bond works like this.

Let's say you make a £10,000 investment. During the life of the bond (usually five or five-and-half years) you will get an annual income of 10 that it is that's £1 000 a year in this per cent - that's £1,000 a year in this currently be made on secure invest-case. The minimum guarantee, ments that do not depend so crucially according to the brochure, is that you will get your original investment

But what may not be understood by investors is this means that if either the FT-SE 100 or the S&P 500 is lower at the end of the period than at the start, you get back your original capital less the income you have received meanwhile. So with a 10 per cent five-year bond you will have received £5,000 in income and then if the relevant index is downwhen time is up you would only get £5,000 capital back.

Over every five-year period since Yields on both gilts and PIBs vary the FT-SE index began in 1984, daily. claims the literature from Financial Assurance, the two indices have achieved an average growth rate of more than 50 per cent. So if the stockbroker should be prepared to future resembles the recent past you advise you.

auranteed equity bonds are the should get your income and your

that looking back further than 1984 there have been periods when mar-

These bonds, it says, represent an interesting gamble on the future level of stock markets but we question whether the person who needs to maximise his or her income should

On the bright side, if the indices are the same as or above their starting point at the end of the term, you get income and your original capital back with no deductions. So these bands are a simple het between the investor and the companies offering them on how the markets will do.

The risk of both stock markets thought to be minimal and daily vulnerability to last-minute fluctuations.

It is worth remembering that there is usually an up-front charge on these bonds so that not all of your money will be invested. However, Baronworth and a number of other intermediaries offer a discount on the 3 per cent adviser's commission they earn. Elsewhere good returns can still

ments that do not depend so crucially on stock market movements.

National Savings offer a range of fixed returns, many of them tax-free. It is also possible to get a running yield of 8 per cent on a 10-year gilt, without any loss of capital or with only a small loss when the stock

National permanent-interest bearing shares (PIBs) are another source of high-income returns - typically yielding around 9.5 per cent at the start of this month - with a number of issues from substantial building societies offering minimal risk.

Such products are not sold aggressively to investors because they lack an up-front commission, but a local

The only way is up

What are the attractions of the escalator bond? By Abigail Montrose

Investors looking for both a guaranteed and rising income over the next years should consider escalator or step-up bonds. These bonds guarantee to pay a set amount each year for a fixed period. The income increases each year and at the end of the term, which is usually three or five years, your capital is returned to you in

Escalator bonds provide a regular income, which may be ideal for anyone looking for extra income to top up their pension or provide them with an income during a career break or a return to full-time education.

These bonds are offered by building societies and banks. The minimum investment varies between £500 and £5,000 depending on the provider, and income is paid monthly, half-yearly or annually.

To get the best rates, investors should opt for an annual income. Unlike other bonds, the interest rate you receive is not based on the size of your investment, so you get the same rate of interest whether you invest £5,000 or

This can make escalator bonds looking for a guaranteed income from a cash-based deposit.

For example, Portman Building Society requires a minimum investment of just £500 on its five-year escalator bond. The annual income rises from 6 per cent to 6.25 per cent, 6.5 per cent, 7 per cent and finally 9 per cent over

Elsewhere you can start off with an income as low as 4 per cent rising to 12 per cent over the term. (For the latest rates available check the weekend press or Teletext). Rates change regularly on bonds so

when you've discovered one which suits you, telephone the bank or building society to check that the rate is still being offered. These bonds offer investors peace of

mind as you know exactly how much interest your money is going to earn for a set period of time, and there is no risk to your capital. The rising income also allows for inflation which bonds paying a level rate of interest do not.

"Most people see their costs go up over the years, so escalator bonds with their rising income may be more appro- advisers Sanham & Co, says: "The mar-



highly competitive for small investors. Start at the bottom: Getting on the escalator brings a guaranteed income from a cash-based deposit

rate of interest and make no allowance for inflation" says Amanda Davidson, a partner at the independent financial advisers Holden Meehan.

The income offered on escalator bonds is based on current interest rates. If you think interest rates are likely to rise in the future, you may want to hold back from investing in a fixedrate bond as you may be able to get a better rate by waiting. But if you expect interest rates to fall the interest rates offered today could look very attractive in a few months' time.

Banks and building societies offering these bonds are aware of this and try to take a long-term view on the rates they offer. In recent weeks there have been a lot of changes to the interest rates offered on fixed-rate products, due to uncertainty over how soon the general election will be and the outlook for interest rates. But not everyone thinks interest rates will rise. Keith Sanham, a partner at the independent

priate to their needs than, say, guar- ket is on the move. There's political anteed-income bonds, which pay a flat uncertainty and a gut feeling interest rate of interest and make no allowance rates will go up. I don't subscribe to this

> some invigorating and interest rates at worst will stay where they are or probably come down in the next few months," he says.
>
> But you may feel that in the current

political climate it is better to remain flexible and opt for a short-term bond rather than, say, a five-year bond.

One of the latest bonds to be launched is a three-year one from Abbey National. It is paying an annual income of 6 per cent, rising to 7 per cent and then 8.5 per cent in year three. With the base rate currently at 6 per cent this seems a good deal, says Mr Sanham, as the interest rate would have to rise by more than 2.5 per cent over the next three years to match this rate.

However, income on these bonds is taxable, which means that for a taxpayer the net rates are significantly lower (so you may well be better off with a guaranteed income bond).

If you are a non-taxpayer you should ask for the income to be paid gross. Fill in form R85, available from either the Inland Revenue or the bank or building society with which you take out the "I think the economy still needs

Escalator bonds are ideal for those investors looking for a reliable income with no risk to their capital, but they are not the only products available with these features.

Non-taxpayers should also look at National Savings Income bonds or, if they are old enough, National Savings Pension bonds, while 20 per cent taxpayers should consider National Sav-

ings First Option bonds.

Banks and building societies offering escalator bonds include Abbey National, Bank of Ireland, Bank of Sectional Bank of Bank Pierringham Scotland, Barclays Bank, Birmingham Midshires Building Society, Coventry Building Society, Dunfermline Build-ing Society, Halifax Building Society. Leopold Joseph, Portman Building Society, Royal Bank of Scotland, Sun Banking Corporation, TSB and Wool-wich Building Society.

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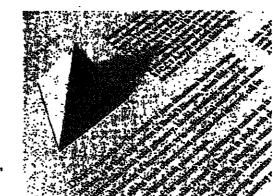
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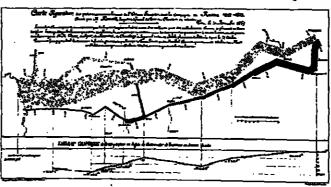


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(10am). Tennants (01969-623780).

implements and machinery, kitchenalia. North Petherton Rugby Club, Friday (2.30pm), Mike Rawle (01823-324983).

crossesses several colors, water-colours, all paintings, unredeemed plodges and probate sales, some with no reserve, at the Trafalgar Deven, Park Row, London SE10, Monday (7pm), Courts Sewellery Auctions (0181-293 1954).

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beer bottles, 40 butter crocks, 40 hot water bottles, flagons, pot lids, kitchenalis, next saturday (11 mm). Bills Auctions, Essear Heritage Centre, 5 Ironworks Row, Wath Road, Essear (01 226-745156). Wigion, Cambries Single-owner collection of 80 lamps from motor and borse drawn vehicles, bicycles and milways, Friday vehicles, bicycles and milways, Friday (10.50mn). Thomson, Roddick & Laurie, 25 King Street (016973-43348). Wantsworth: 18 full-size soonker tables, two pool lables, winds, beers, spirits, Monday (11 mm). General Auctions, 63-65 Garrant Lane, SW 18 (0181-874 9255). Whithy: Doutlon, Staffordshire and other

rari Lane, Sw. 18 (1781-874-925); Whittier, Daulion, Staffordshire and other wares, shops lamps, Japanese neisuke, Beaties photographs, timplate, carly 19th cornury (armbouse pne furniture, Thun-day (9.30am), Richardson & Smith, 8 Vic-

day (9.30am), Richardson & Smith, & Vic-toria Square, Whitby (01947-602398).

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EVENTS

Arts and entertainment listings

FILM

WEST END CHOICE

BABE (U) Live action advantures of a pig. Trocodero MGM 12.10; Plaza 2,15, 4.20 PRODUCTO MUSH 12.10; Plaza 2.15, 4.20 SMRS WRE (15) Pameh Anderson Lee Skays a chib owning bottney hanter at this funnistic action movie. Thousafers MGM 12.05, 2.15, 4.20, 6.30, 9.40, 12midnight (Satt. Plaza 12.15, 2.25, 4.36, 6.45, 9.00, 11.35pm (Satt.) Winner West End 12.05, 2.20, 4.40, 7.00, 9.30, 11.50 (Sat)

THE BRIDGES (15) Robin Williams stars in the remake of La Cage Aus Foßes. Empire Leic Sq 12.45, 3.20, 6.00, 8.40, 11.30 (Sat) Trocaders MGM 12.50, 3.30, 6.10, 9.00, 12mdoight (Sat) BROWEN ARROW (15) John Travolta plays a milet who threatens to race the US South-

pilot who threatens to raze the US South-test. Odean Memorine 12:55pm (Sat), 3:25, 6:10, 8:45; Place 6:25, 8:50, 11:45 COPPLET (18) A criminal psychologist becomes a serial biller's latest victim. The caden MGM 100, 3.40, 6.25, 9.05 Wanner Hear End 170, 3.40, 6.29, 9.10, 12/18mr (Sat) DEND 1808 VIRLUMING (15) Tim Robbins directs Susan Sarandon in her role as a mon har beforeigh a man on death row. Rismer who be(riends a man on death row. Marner INest End 12.40, 3.10, 8.50, 11.40 (Sat) EXECUTIVE DECISION (15) Tense thriller star-ring Kurt Russell as a US delence expert assence to intervene a hostage situation. Trocader: MGM 12-10, 3:05, 6:00, 8:55;

Warner West End 12noon, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00, COLDENEYE (12) The latest James Bond is remeanated by Pierce Brosnan. Odeon Mezanine 12:10 (Sat), 2:55, 8:30 hackers get caught up in a corporate invegation. Troundero MGM 2.20, 4.40, 7.05, 9.25, 12midnight (Sat); Plaza 1.30, 3.50.

6.25, 8.55, 11.30 (Sal) MERT (15) Al Paemo and Robert De Niro in mother coppsychopath thriller. Wiener West End 1.20, 4.50, 8.20, 11.40 (Sat) MR BOLLAND'S OPES (PG) Richard Drev-

fuss stars as a composer strateging in the traching profession. Odeon Lete Sq 2.25, 5.40, 8.45, 11.50 (Sat) LEWING LAS VEEAS (18) Street-level view of the plays work of Las Successive year of the plays work of Las Veges, starting Nicolas Cage as an alcoholic, Pantan St MGM 1825, 3.50, 6.15, 8.40; Odeon Mecanine 5.50 MGHY APPROPRIE (1.5) in Woody Allen's latest he searches for his adoptive son's both mother, Odeon Haymarker 1.30, 3.50, 6.15, 8.50.

NORTH BY MORTHWEST (PG) Hischcock's classic with Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint and James Moson. Hapmanier MGM 1.45.

4.50, 6.00 B. POSTONO (15) A postume lails in love. Parties St MCM 1.20, 3.45, 6.10, 8.40; MGM Swiss Centre 1.25, 4.05, 6.20, 8.50 MCENSO # 115) Jan McKellen stats, Carant MICHARD # (15) Ian McKellen stars, Curton West End 1050m (Sat), 325, 555, 8.0 SINSE MID SENSERINY (1) Emma Thompwo's adaptation. Curton Phoenix 2.00, 5.00, 8.00; Odeon Memanine 2.30, 5.30, 8.25; Namer Mest End 12mma, 2.50, 5.40, 8.40 SERIO (18) The seven dendly sins form the base for a series of number that stump detectives. MCM Meter Coure 3.40, 8.30 Outro Memanine 12.30 (Sut), 3.00, 5.45, 8.30 SIMML RICSS (15) A low proxime in in

1961s Glasgow becomes enhanced in gas land warfare. Piccodills MGM 130, 3.45, 0.10, 8.30

D. 11, 8, 91
SHORE (15) Episodic narrative starring Harvey Keitel. Lumière 1, 45, 4,05, 6,25, 8,50; Retorie 1, 45, 4,05, 6,25, 8,50
STOREMELL (15) Award winning gay rights film tracing the build-up to the 1969 New York riots. Piccadilly MGM 1,30, 3,45, 6,10, 8,30; Staffesbury Ave MGM 2,10, 5,55, 835
SHIBARRI PERTEUT (18) Lunch-Touch the SUBDIEN DERTH (18) Jean-Claude Van

SUBON DESTH (18) Jean-Claude Van Damme stars, Empar Leic Sp 100, 3,30, 6,70, 8,30, 11,40 (Sat): Tracadero MGM 3,20, 6,30, 9,20, 1,2midmight (Sat) TRIMES TO DO IN DESTRUCTURE WEEK YOUTHE DEAD (18) A retired gangater returns to the job for one last time. Starring Andy Cartes and Christopher Welfore, Howander Welf 1,30, 4,45, 8,00; Wenner West End 1,50, 4,30, 705, 8,40; 13, 10ers (Sat)

6.45, 400
TWEISE BROWERS (15) Terry Gilliam's latest time-traveling adventure stars Bruce Willia Shafteshay Ave MGM 240, 5.25, 8.10; Fo-cadero MGM 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 9.00, 1270idnight (Sat); Warner West End 1210, 250 5.30, 8.30, 11.30 (Sat), 12midnight (Sat); 5.30, S.-O. 11-05 Saft, Lammage Lead on a liment Estable. (12) Softward sage based on a a true story, starring Jeff Brudges as the tough and driven starper. Oxforw West End 12-55, 335, 6-25, 9.10. 12 Endingth. (Saf) West End Booking Lines. Numbers 0171 corept where noted; some contributes a booking in.

numbers ut it acts to the state of the many levy a booking fee.

Curson Maylair 3r0 1720; Curson Photesix 309 1721; Curson West End 369 1722; Enquer Leie Sq 0900-88900¢ Gate Nothing 1th 727 4943; Luarsere 836 0691; Haymarket MGM 0181-070 6070; Panton St. MGM

0181-970 6021; Piccadilly MCIA 437 3561; Shaftesbury Are MCIA 0181-970 6013; MCIA Swiss Centre 0181-970 6017; Tourn-ham Ct Rd MCIA 0181-970 6052; Trondero

8181)
Othello (12) Sar 1.30pm Desperado (18) Sar 4pm Swimming With Shartst (15) Sar 6.15pm Devil In A Blue Dress (15) Sar 6.15pm Apocalypse Now (18) Sar 10.30pm The Big Blue (15) San 1.30pm The Piano (15) San 4pm City Of Loss Children (15) San 4pm City Of Loss Children (15) San 6.30pm The Usual Suspects (18) San 4.55pm

West End choice

715.00, £10.50-£24, 150 mins. NICKTING BOOKS

Sam Mendes revises Sondheim.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM

ends 27 July £6-£24, 165 mins

tion of Sondheim's musical. Today 2.00 & 7.15. 165 mins. Bine Systembaryd ISSs Dennis Potter's

MGM 0181-970 6015; The Minema 369 1723; Odeon Haymarket 839 7697; Odeon Leic Sq 930 3232; Odeon Marble Arch 723

ENSIGNAUN opposite Hampstead Tube NW3 (435 1525) Notices and the Company of the NW3

Matineez — [1]: Sun, [3]: Bee. [4]: Wed. [5]: Thu, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

CONFIDER TWO

Albery St Martin's Lanc, WC2 (369 1730/cc 867 1111) & Loic Sq. Man-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3,00, £12-£30, restricted view £5, 160 mins.

Reduced Shakespeare Company Issu-forward shrough 37 phys. Criterion Piccatelly Circus, Wi (369 1747) 9- Picc Circ. Wed-Sut R.O., [5] 3.00, [7] 5.00, [1] 4.00, 25.50-620, 120 mins.

Dormar Warehouse Eartham Street, WC2 (369 1732) ← Leic Sq. Mon-Sut 8.00, [5][7] 4.00, ends 25 May, £12-£18. 115 mins.

grammation of the brutality of chi Today 3.00 & 8.00. 95 mins.

The Bartican; The Thomas Of The Shrow Josic Lawrence in

repertory cinema

(435 15:25)
Notorious (PG) Sar 2.20pm, d.45pm +
Rebecca (PG) 4.15pm, d.40pm The Pencing
Master (12) San 12.30pm + Bella Epoque
(15) 2.10pm Spellbound (PG) San d.40pm
ICA CHEMIA The Mall SW1 (930 3647)
Land Of Silence And Durkness Sat. San

ICA CHIEBRA The Mail SW1 (930 3647)
Land Of Stench And Durkners Set. Sun 3ym Lessons in Durkners Let. Sun 5ym. Jessons in Durkners Let. Set. Sun 53mn, 8-30mn
HT South Bank SE1 (928 3232)
Brief Encounter (PG) Set 2pm Oliver Twist.
(U) Set 3-30pm The Hustler Set opm
Lastreace of Arabin (PG) Set 6-20pm
Betnan Forever (PG) Set 7-30pm Diva (15)
Set 8-45pm; Sen 8-30pm 100 Days Before
The Command (18) Set 8-40pm; Sun
6-30pm Birth Of A Nation (15) Sen 2-20pm
Champagne Sen 8-20pm The Wizard of Oz.
(U) Sen 7-30pm Devil in A Blue Dress (15)
Sen 8-45pm
PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Pince WC2 (437
8181)

THEATRE

Girlgard Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (494 5065)

Pior Circ. Mon-Fri 800, Sat 8.15, [5] 3.00,

w Strand, WC2 (836 8888) BR/O Char X. Mon-Sax 7.30. [4][7] 3.00, £12-£24, 160 mins

AM INDIA, MUSEAUMO Nicola Pagett and John McCallium star. OM Vic Westerloo Road, SE1 (928 6655) BR/© Waterloo, Mon. Su 7-30, [4] [7] 3.00,

Cotteslor: Standard Annous Shamas.

Standard Annous Sher as the great Brighth arrist in Pam Gents' portunit.

Roday 2.30 & 7.30. 175 mins.

Obvier: £11.50.250 Lyttehon: £7.50.£22.50.

Cotteslor: £01.64.640, Day seats from 10mm.

South Bants, SEI (928 2252) BRO Waterion.

ROMA, SHANESPENER, COMPANY

The Robbits.

Shakegner's britle-of-the-sease comedy.

K-89 200 & 7.15, 165 mins.

The National Vanbrugh's boisterous directed by Iso Judge. Totaly 2.00 & 7.15, 180 mins.

Barbican Theatre: 16-624-50. The Pit: 110-117, Barbican Centre, BC2 (638 8891)

& Barbican/Moorgate.

◆ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 8.00. [4][7] 3.00, £13.50-£30, 135 mira. PORTIA COGERIA DE MARIES CAT'S banning look at a surviving twin who lives life in a secritiving limbo.

Repart Court Storme Square, 5W1 (730 1745)

49 Shame Square, Mon-Sar 7.30 (14 May, 7.00), [7] 3.0 (no mot 11 May), ends 1 Iune, 65-618, cours available, 140 mins.

SHAD BRES Ned Sherrin directs Kin & the Widow. Muderitle Strand, WC2 (836 9987) RR/# Charing K. Mon-Sat & 10, [4] 2.30, [7] 4.00, ends 27 July, £10-£27.50, 135 mins.

Strams
Zoe Wensmaler, Robin Eliis and Maria
Aitken in AR Gurney's marital comedy.
Apollo Stafflesbury Avezne, W. (494-5070)
& Piec Cir. Mon-Fri 800 (20 May, 7.00), Sat
8.15, [5] 3.00, [7] 5.00, 86-£21.50 until 18 May,
then £7-£23.50, 130 mins.

TUP DOES Raw top apoctacle from Dein Perry.

Lysic Shaftesbury Awarue, W1 (494-5045)

Pier Circ. Mon-Tim 8.00. Fri & Sat 6.00 & 8.45, ends B June, £5-£72-50. 90 mins.

Beyond the West End ALMERIA THERTHE Technical Journal & Rent directs from Hollander in the trile role of Molicre's comedy. Mon-Sat 8pm, mais Sat 4pm, ends 15 June, £6.50-£17.50, comes trailable.

Almeida Street, N1 (359 4404) & Angel. America Street, Int (539 4044) & Angel.

MITS THEMIM:

Brothers of the Breats Jummy Murphy's

acclaimed, brunally comic first play about
three Dublin house painters. Most-Pri.

7.30pm, Sr. 5.30pm & #3.30pm, ends 8.1ms.

#8.50-£15, cones available. Great Newport
Street, WC2 (836 2132) & Leleoster Square.

sples & Hancy Dichens' best-loved characters are recreated in Oddbodies' styliaed production. The Sat 7.30pm, Sun 5.30pm, ends 26 hday. 29, cones 26, The paywhat you

can.
Lavender Hill, SWI I (223 2223) BR:
Clapham Junction.
MARPSTERN THISUTE.

Some Samp Bay Report Everett and Conia Redgrave star in Martin Sherman's knost drams, Mon-Sat Spin, mais Sat 4pm, ends 1 Jane, £11-£13.50, Mon & mar Sat £8, conca

avamatic Avenue road, NWS (722 2501)

O Swiss Cottage.

THERITE UPSTRESS, MOVAL COURT

Blades Winsome Prints of Schema for Clean

Break emplores the experiences of Jamasican

female or up trafficers. Mon Sat 7 ASpm.,

Jamasican

Ja mais Sat 4pm, ends 18 May. £8, Mon, mai Se & concs £5. Sicane Square, SWI (730 1745)

YOUNG WE
Ree Theatre de Complicité's latest
challenging work is a radicel and physical
interpretation of the Crusoe myth. Mon-Sut
7.30pm, mass Sm 2.30pm, ends 1 June, £15, The Car, SE1 (928 6363) BR/O Waterloo.

Around the country Brighton CORN EXCLUSE Sundanama A journey from repression to an imaginary sensual world presented by Maly Theorem of St. Petersburg, Tonight Spm. £12,50, comes £3.50.

Oxford

The Dome Complex (01273-674367) APOLLO TRIBUTES
Calumity lane Gentum Craven and Stephen
McGam in the facelly Wild West transmut.
Last peris today 2:30pm & 7:30pm, £8:50-£16:50. George St (01865-244544)

<u>Southampton</u> David Williamson presented by Nuffield Theatre, Last peris today 2,30pm & 8,00pm. £7.95-£11.95, cones available. University Road (01703-671771)

Stratford-upon-Avon The Other PLACE
The flatful Bull Peter Whelan's emotional thriller inspired by a real-tile seandal involving Shakespear's daughter. In rep. monight 7.30pm, each 30 Sep. £13.50-£17.50. Southern Lane (01789-25623)

Rachelle Rocer Allam heads Tim Albery's production of Shakespeare's tragedy. In rep. today 1.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 5 Oct. £6.50-£35.50. Waterside (01789-295623) directs the first major staging of Gay, Pope and Arbutimot's comedy in 250 years. In re-today 1.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 5 Oct. 59-229.50, Waterside (01789-295623)

ROMAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

EXHIBITION

MCTORIA ART GALLERY Str Nightwo Smith 1879-1959 Almon 400 works by this important figurative painter Lavoured by Francis Bacon, Mon-Fri Wann-.30pm, Set 10em-Spen, ends 15 June, free. kinigs St (01225-477772) Brighton

HONE MUSEUM & ANT CALLERY Bodie in Puly Includes work by Boudin, Monet, Dufy and Pistero. Tes-Fri I0am-Spm, Sai 10am-4-30pm, San 2pm-Spm, ench 2 June, check for proces. New Church Road (01273-779410)

Bristo

ARMOLTHS
Art from South Africa Group show exploring
both urban and rand landscapes. Mon-Sar
10am-7pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 2 June,
fire. Narrow Quay (0117-929 9190) London

Engentury

Branch ART GALLERY

Ere Armetic in Reference? Two functored photographs exploring the work of this prominent photo-journalist.

Dwelt Jarness Artist, Flan-union, Bengare Films, pointings, designs by the influential artist, Mon., World-Sai 10am-6-45pm, The 10am-5-45pm, San 12anon-6-45pm, ends 18 Aug. 54-50, comes 25-20 (prince gives entry to both exhibitions) SBI Street, EC2 (678-4141)

DBATHORY MOOTINGS.

P DESIGN MARKETIM.

100 Marketpiacet: Farafive that made the
20th Centry Classis including Elliern Gray
and Ron Arad. Mon-Sun 10.30m-5.30pm.
ends 10 Oct. 54.50, cones 53.50.
Bullers Wharf, SE1 (403 6933) & Yover
FEI/DLR: Tower Gateway.

Millional Call Elly Millional Cas Trans the Be inspieces iron the Berja Pamphili Bullery unles Velazopez, Caracci and Raphtet

Incindes Velocquee, Caracci and Rammer.
Ends 19 May, free.
Ends 19 May, free.
Velocquee & Bacone Paintings of Pupes Bacon's
version of Velocquee's Pope Insoccut X
compared. Ends 19 May, free.
Helbuin's "The Andreasement One of the
gallery's most popular pictures goes back on
display, Mano-Sat (Hum-Open, Sun 2pm-Gem.
free. Pathliger Square, WC2 (839 3321)

4- Charing Cross.

Hermitate payment and 1 ppy

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Hermitate pay Charing Cross.
 Humann. Politikal Call Env
 Inite Dunish Photographs of Sobre artistic
 The Recognited French Mon-

10sm-6pm, Sm 12moon-6pm, cauls 14 July. free. St Martin's Pisce, WC2 (306 0055) ⊕ Charing Cross. ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Qualture Callinboths: The United estimist Large sciention of paintings.

Sup Handom, ends 23 June, 4450,

S SI Bushiman Hand Hand Hand cones £3.50. Burlington House, Pic W1 (439 7438) → Piccadilly Circus

PENNE GALLERY

dente & Bell The power of archi

lored by this collaborative dup. I captored by this collaborative due. Mon-St Illam-Spm, ends 27 May, free. Kensington Gardens, W2 (402 6075) & Sth Ken. TATE CALLERY
Marketo Dunners link and wash works by Dunch

painter. Mon-Sun 10an-5.50pm, ends 30 June, free. SW1 (887 8000) & Pimbos. Southampton | JOHN WARSHING CALLERY Imagined Communities Includes work by Bollmank, Calle and Wazaring, Toe-Sat 10.30am-5-30pm, ends 18 May, free. The University (01703-595000 ear 2160)

COMEDY

London ASTRO BAR & COSINC CONFER CLUB kolon Gordfillo, Marik Hurst, Keith Wickham ht 7.30pm, Fullman Palace Road (381 2006) & Hamperton, 11. BARONA COBART AT THE HERFORD Marc Blake, Phil Davey, Keith Dover & The Racey Brothers. Rought Spin, Bedford Hill, SW12 (0181-673 1756) & Ballum, £6, cones £4. BEST IN STREET UP AT COMEDY STORE

Andre Vincent MCs for Helen Austin, Mark Hurst & John Mann. Bought Spm & 12mdnight, Oscadon St SW1 (0142): 914433) ⊕ Piozadilly Circus, £10. BOOKS & CACCED AT THE TSPHELL PARK Erry Alderton, Sanon Rus. Boothby Graffoe & Mike Gunn. Bruight 9 15pm, Tufnell Park Rd, N7 (483 3436) & Tufnell Park, £6, concs £5, no ship £1.

CHUCKLE CLUB AT LONDON SCHOOL OF lames Barker, Dominic Holland, Rory Mation & Parrot. Emight 7.45pm, Houghton Street, WC2 (476) 1672) & Holborn, £6, students £4. 10/19 Fixture, 10, statute 19.

Scan Percival, Ivan Steward, Jim Barclay,
Owen O'Neill, plus MC.
Tonight 830pm. Crouch End Hill, N8 (018134) (028) & Firsbury Park, 25, coocs IA.

EAST DIRECT TOWERN Steve Best, Robin Inco, Helen Austin, Laurie

Kilmartin. Tonight 9pm, Lordship Lane, SEZZ (0181-299 4138) BR: North Dulwich, £5, concs £4.

Appealance Commission of the C

HAMPSTEAD COMEDY AT THE WASHINGTON Robin Banks, Kevin Day & Paul B Edwards. Thoight, Span, Englands Lane, NW3 (483 3647) & Belster Park, £6, concs £5. BECCAMO CLUB AT FREEDOMS WARE
Onis Cannelloni, Paul B Edwards, Al Murr
Liz Webb with Los Knen in the open spot.
Thought Spon, Essex Road, N1 (813-4478)

Augel, £6, cones £3.

A raige, in Consist.

ATTE CUER, NORMER AND RESTURBANT
Charmian Hughes, Kevin Gikden, Aiden
McAliser, Parro, & Dave Thompson.
Sun Spm, Wesney Street, SE19 (0181-77)
0835) BR: Crystal Palace/Gipsy Hill. 64,

BIG PRES SURFAGE AT BULL & BUSSE Dave Dave, Peliciny Stark, Tony Lawe, Mark Maier & Jeff Mirza. Sun 8pm, Kew Road (0181-940 6882) £2-50. COMMENT STORE AT UP THE CREEK

Andre Vincent. Sun 9pm, Creek Road, SE10 (0181-858 4581) BR: Greenwich, £6, concs.£4. ONE NATION UNDER A GROOVE_BOST AT Asian controly night. San 7:30pm, Brentford High St (0181-568 1176) BR: Kew Bridge/& Gunnersbury, M

COMENY STORE PLAYERS
Josie Lawrence, Paul Merton, Lee Simpson,
Jan Sweeney & Richard Vranch.
Sam Spm, Caendon Street, SW1 (01426914433) & Piccadilly Circus, £9. DOMESTIMES AT THE KINES HERB

Cameingham, Joe Fran & Rob Hitchmough. San 8. Jupan, Croach End Hill, NS (0181-340) 1028) & Finsbury Pt., 25, coacs 64, m'ship Sup.

Brighton THE DONE log Charle & The Plaint Fort Forum US percussive dance group perform : And Other Pieces, Sun Spm, £10.

Gloucester GUILDBALL ARTS CERTIFIE

Concentric Hellon Community Dame Company Claire Taylor directs a dance-drama series, Growing Pains, Tonight Spm. 13.50, concs 13. Eurogate St. (01452-505069) London SABLER'S WELLS Chorporta Artonio Gudes: Cornes. Choreographed flamenco version of Bizet's story. Mon-Sat Spot, mat 18 May, 3pm, ends

18 May, £7.50-£35. Rosebery Arcaue, EC1 (278.8916) ◆ Angel. Southampton THE GAPTEY
Small Beans Dance Company: A Heart
Underst The Small Beans Paul Douglas compan
Imprired by journeys and remance. Tonight
Spin. 5th conce \$4.50.
Off Bleckynden Terrace (01703-229319)

Swindon _

cones available. Theatre Square (01793-524481) CLASSICAL Brighton

London A MARCA TREATHE.

Caprison The exciting chamber group with a potrail of Danish composer Poul Ruders.
Sun 7.30m. St. canes St.

Almeida Street, N1 (359 4404) © Angel. Bannicke Rat.1 1.50/Bostopouch Educatorsky's Violin Concerto between Britten's Four Sea Interhales and Projection's 6th Symptomy.

Snn 7,30pm. £6-£30. Barbican Centre, EC. (638 8891) + Moorgate/Barbican. CHRIST CHURCH

works by Jack, Grant, Beamish and Dud Hughes, Sun Spin, £5, contex £4. Highbur Grove, NS (0)81-359 2856) & Arsenal. ST JOHETS Vasual With the Guildford Philharmonic to Gorecki, Howells and Mozan's C minor Mass, Breight 7,30pm, 65-612, Smith Square SW1 (222 1061) © Westminster.

PURCELL REGIST
Debassy - Bayont Impressionism All-day
exploration of the composer's chamber and
piano outputs. Son 2.15pm, £10-£20. South
Bank Ctr., SEI (960 4342) BR/© Waterloo. OSEEN ELEMBETH HALL

James MacSregor Fastinating pumo recital of Bach's Art of Figure and Nancarow Studies. Stm 3.30pm. L6-U5. South Bank Centre, SE I (960-4242) BR/9-Waterloo. ROBL ALBERT BULL Royal Philharmonia/Reval Baglies With the Royal Choral Society in Walton's Behinzen Peser and Wolst's Phiness. Som 7-30pm. 25-227. Kensington Gorte, SW7 (589 8212)

High St Kensington.

BORE, FESTRER, BELL.

BRC Symphony Orchestra/Otalon Matesamura'
Plano Conjecto with Rachmaninov's 2nd
Stemphany Three & 750m 510c. concs 25.

rumo Concerto with Rachmuninov's 2nd Symphony, Tonight 7.30pm, £10, cones £5. South Bank Centre, SE1 (960 4242) BR/O-Materior ORE BALL

Notes to the Manufacture of the String String tries. He was the String tries and String tries. Will (935 2141) & Bond St. WESSEX HALL POOLE ARTS CERTIFE Registerable Symphony Orchostra/Resisters Maxim Vangetov phys Probotics's 2nd Violin Concerto, with Rhellowsky's 6th Symphony, Tonight 7 30pm, £495-£16.95. Kingland Road (01202-685222/cc 674233)

OPERA Brighton THE POWE HEW SUSSEX OPERA The Enchantress A rare presentati Licycl Davies, Runight 7pm. £7-£22.50. Church St (01273-709709)

London Ariedaste Revival of David Alden's production, conducted by Your Bolton, with Ann Murray in the title role. Ranight 6,30pm, 48-650. St Martin's Lune, WC2 (6328300) DYRIC STUDIO: OPREDICE

trans 5 tour oversomer Hiss bile UK premiere of Margareta Halim's opera, directed by Julia Hollander and sung in English, Mon-Sat 9pm, ends 18 May, £7.50, comes £5. King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) O Han ROWL OPERA HOUSE: ROWL OPERA Takes A revival of Jercary Statellie's staging conducted by Evelino Pido and with Nelly Miniciou in the title role, Temigha 7.30pm. 44-41 10. Covens Garden, WC2 (304 4000) & Covent Garden.

nert Thompson The highly-rated guitarist singer-congwriter tours his new album, and singer-congretter tours his new album You? Me? Us? Colston Hall Colston St (0117-922 3686/cc

922 3683) Sun 7.30pm, £10-£12.50. Cambridge
Orbital Egyloud ambient techno doo.
Tonight 7:30pm, £10.
Cam Linch Samily of external folk.
Cam Exchange Wheeler St (81223-357851)
Sun 7:30pm, £14-£15.50.

Colchester Richard Thompson See Bristol.
University of Easter (01392-263528) Tomight
8pm, £10-£12-50.

London

Michael Reso Leader of 18th reggie worst
rio Black Ulturu.
Assaris Charing Cross Road WC2 (0171-434
0403) 49 Threnham Court Road. Son 7pm.
113-514 ### Longua Back-flipping Neil Young and Brace Springsteen adessnan. Blackingsh Concer Halfs Lee Rd SE3 (0181-463 0100) Though 7.30pm, #12, come £10. Raga Against The Machine US rap-metal crew with a gradge.

Brasen Academy Suckwell Read SW9 (0171-324 9999) BR/6- Briston. Tought Type, phone for availability. The Bubbasts Long-running Irish trad folkies. Mean Faldler Harlesden High St NW10 (0181-961 5-90) BR: Willesden Junc-torn. Bunght Spn. 210. hear Bhar Leaging Enelish fulk divn.

Leading English folk diva. abeth Hall South Bank Centre Queen Elizabeth Hall South Bank Centre SEI (0171-960 4242) & Waterloo. Tonight 7.45pm, £10-£12.50. Augustuse Ridge Benin afro-funk diva.

Renal Festival Hall South Bank Centre SE1
(171-80) CCC) BR/O Waterloo. Sun Spm.
[12-50-E15.

Stone Sarie & The Dales Hard-living US Since Entle & The Duline Hard-living US country-rock legend.
Shepherit's Bash Empire W12 (0181-740 7474) & Shepherit's Bush Empire W12 (0181-740 7474) & Shepherit's Bush. Sun 7pm, E14.
Northura Uniture Cases-silie Leerage Northern rockers, University of London Union Malet St WC1 (0171-723-5481) & Goodge Street, Rought 7-30pm, £7.
Id hing Lush Bus-topped country chanicuse.
Wentbley Arena Empire Way (0181-900 1234) & Wentbley Park, Tonight 6-30pm, £1150-£21.

Northampton

Judih Burham Singer of '60s folk-pop hand The Sectors. Derapure Guildhall Road (01604-34811) Sun Spm, £14.50-£16.50. Watford
India Durtum See Northamptom
The Colosseum (01923-445000)
Spm. £14.50-£16.50.
jazz, world, folk etc

<u>Bristol</u> idey Batcholor Quartet Free-ish tax and trampet soundscapes. Albert har West St (0117-966 1968) Sun Som. E6. concs £5.

London

Rhry Coughton brish folk-jezz sirez.

Juzz Carle Parkway NWI (0171-344 (0044)

40 Cumden Thoro. Sun Jynn, £12-50-£15.

Bill Incisson Quartet Legendary MJO vibraharpist.

The Rhythmic Chapel Market N1 (0171-713 5859) ◆ Angel Tomph Spm. £12.

Lee Kenitz Quintet Cerebral allo wizard. Lee Keeltz Quintet Cerebral alto wizard.

Romeie Scott'y Frish St W1 (0171-439 0747)

Tomenham Court Road/Leicester Square.

Truight Spin, £12, cons £7.

Auguilgue High African funk diva.

Royal Festival Hald South Bank Centre SE1
(0171-960 242) BR/O Waterloo, Sun 8pm, £12.50-£15. eard bop trumpet icon with top British sup-Prignace Hall Wigmore St W1 (0171-935 2141) & Bond Street/Oxford Crisus, Sun

Latos lames Toplor Quartet Funky Hammond kings.
The Palace Skimpot Road (01582-560222)
Son 8pm, £10.

Marsborough Canya Basan Late Gardeny Ethercal bari-tone polymath with Hungarian pianist. St Peter's Charch (01672 513262) Emight pon, phone for prices.

Brighton

7.30mm, £8.50-£20.

LITERATURE Bracknet Kolla Dannan The enigmane author is joined by poets Elizabeth James & Lin

Smith. South Hill Park Ara Centre Ringmend (01344-484123). San Spin, E., cones E.,

See Bulse Lone Brighton Factioni Israeli nev-elist David Grossenan in conversation with feminist crime-writer Stresh Duttant. Tonghi 7-Mpm, 15, cours. 14. Paralion Theatre New Road (01273-709709) esa Pickards, Joseffee Capido & Jameiro

Vanues Bleheris, Jacobin Capillo & Jametia Blesson An evening of poetry and juzz. Conden Clackswey Bressynson Fall Kulterine S. (0181-253 10301 BR: Croydon Ess. West, Tought byn. JS, comes E.S. O., Ab, Sweet Busent Poems and letters of W B Yeats and Margaret Raddinck. Breish Library Circus Russell St WCI (636 1544) & Rottenburn Cl. Rd. Sant Jpm. free. Tumbridge Wells

Tumbridge Wells

Tumbridge Wells

Tumbridge Wells

Sessible Sesson Of Pablic Play Readings in association with the Scottish Playwrights. Writers include Soc Glover, David Greig, & Alasdati Grav, Birny, Arts Costre Church Rd (0)1902-54:4999) Mon-Son 7:30pm, ends 25 June. E4, const £2.

football cards, a mouse cooper, and a big chanct of Meccano.
Friday (Ham). Biddle & Webb (0)21-455
SD42).
Leigh-on-Son: Executors' sale of a cylicetion of Chanese blue and white porcelain.
English and continental certaines, furniture, silver, clocks, Thesday (10.30am).
Leigh Austion Rooms, 88-60 Pall Mall Antiques Trade Gazette (0171-930 4957). Governent Auction News (0171-353 7300. Fax-U-Back Hodine 0336-423-88).

ira Palaca Antionat over 700 stands. Alexandra Palaca Autoput over 100 Planta tomorrow (1181-883 7061). Cotswelds, The Prognell, near Chatheston, Glos, A40 between Northleach and Andoversiord, Fri-Sunday (Pennian Andowendord, Fri-Sunday (Pennian 01444-482514). Stafford County Antiquest: Sandon Holl, near Stone (AS1), next Saturday and Sun-day (Cooper 01249 661111). Audique Forum Group's first Inst at the King's Hall, Stole-on-Treat, torsocrow (01782-595805).

Church services

Mouning Proper, Henr dim (Byrd), Casem G.S. Redby,
The Stand's Gauget of the Stany, Sweep Hill, W.C.: 11 zm
Matters, Strikens in C. The Chaptein,
Striken In Tower of London, S.L.Sam H.C.: 11 zm
Matters, Strikens in C. The Chaptein,
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Casen L.G.M. W. Monghiy,
Casen L.G.M. Monghiy,
Casen L.G.M. Hampton, Courr. S. Wenn H.C.: 11 zm
Matters, Striken in C.: 3. Mynn Becamens, Wood an H.
Grey's in Gauget 11 Likens Downes Service.
Gressense Chapte, Loved, Andrés Service, W.T. & Licans H.C.
11 ten Song Encharten, Minus paschalle (Lassuni, The
Rev Simon Hobbs.
Beach Gauget Wellingson Burneles, SWI: 11 mm Montes,
Beach Sany McLiffengen Burneles, SWI: 11 mm Montes,
Beach Gauget Wellingson Burneles, SWI: 11 mm Montes,
Begen can have (Metalescolum), The Rev Josephan Googst.
Begin and the Officendescolum), The Rev T. Ethnyall Salles Hydn Basses, Byward Street, EC:2: 12 zm Sung
Encharist, Casson Febrer Delmoy.

All Salles, Manyarde Serost, Wi: Exm. Low Matter
BOLDiam Montesty Proper, Linen High Mass, JaChalles Montest Proper, Linen High Mass,

tym Soltam Evanetag ma panto-lderfeyt, The Vient. Al Salet, Paney Bridge, SW6: Sem HC, 4,30am Sang Eucharter, 11,30am Pamby Encingist; Spen Song int Salat. Pattery Bilden. SWife fasts HC. 9.30km Sang Sectionies. 11. 20km Panelly Enclosives. Com Song Sectionies. 11. 20km Panelly Enclosives. Com Song Sectionies. 11. 20km Panelly Enclosives. Song Song State. 11. 20km Panelly Enclosives. 20km Song Section Vision. Communication Service. We first Cook a Sulpan Gent Service. Prehending Related Reven. Bahmandelin. Merche Auris, Wit Ham Solcon Mann. Man brevis to B the Holmant! Colonies. 12. 10km Annua. The Very Rev. M. Vorber, 12. 15pm HC. 6pm Erotherug. The Rev. J. Haddey.

Into College Service. Song Service. Song Service. Party I. 1 pm Sensib Service. Beishop Length New-bigin. Span. 7. 20pm Indoormal Service. Institute Pallagers. 10km Helm Colonies. 12. 10km Facet. Service. 12. 10km Facet. 10km Facet. 10km Facet. 10km Facet. 10km Facet 200g.
22 Mary Brotagon, Reanington Park Road, SE11:
2. Mary Brotagon, Reanington Parks Mone, SF
Michael Hart dom Evening Service (Balading Benedecision), Spin Mass.

Schmert, Somen Gardens, W.P. Ram HC, M. Mars Sung Fickprist, Dworth in D. tyen Evensung, Murrill in E. Schmert, Minneel HIII, 1910. Sum HC, 930m. 11 am HC. The Rev Alen Rous, a. Nyon Evening Praint. The Rev Nell Green.

R hase farthinging, Cartied HSR, EC's. 10.30mm Sung Eachernst. The Rev Islan Paul.

It laint, Hyde Park Crescont, W.P. Sam, HC, Mann Parist, Commingment, May Zakana McMallent, 6.30mm Evening Service. The Rev Indictions Supplant, Service, Temple upin (Stambay), The Rev David Rachards. 2010mt; Furnity traits (Stambay), The Rev David Rachards.

2.10mm McT. Hast Song Eacherst. The Vient.

2.10mm McT. Hast Song h.Man Freiagong, Sase sa, Lard (Bairtsow).
Phagas si bingt Lower Thatasa Surer, P.C.: Hom Solvant Mate,
Mangard's Westminster Abbyr: Ham Sung Backerist,
Mans for five voices (Byrel). The Rector.
Blanth, Regard's Part Read, NVII. San NC. 9.45am Renally Companion; Ham Sung Encharlet. Col-legians regale (Howelds), The Rev Tota Devunsiare Action.
Blantha-bis-paths, W.C. Sam H.C. 9.45am Encharlet.
Blantha-bis-paths, W.C. Sam H.C. 9.45am Encharlet.
L. Mans Vaidens to London Service. Allectin Clad-ma strendt (Austria), The Rev Chre Herbort; 2.45pm Chinata Service. The Rev Gibert Lev. 5-ym Cheral Breasting & Julyon Ferning Service.
St byr Mahre, Vicenage Gass., W.P. San H.C. 9.45am Comments at Comments Service.

28 thry Maket, Vicenage Case, WR Sam HC: Q New Parks Beckmant, The Ventral III-Sem Choral Masters.

The Rev F. Gold: 12.30pm HC: 0.30pm Choral Escators.

R Hary's, Bourne Surves, SW1: want. Huns Lew Mans. Ham High Mans. Minas pais que j' ay perdit (Lausset, F BB Societ, open Soleish Eventuring, Francession of OUK Lady and Soleign Repealations, Collegium negale (laboratis, F pun Lew Mans.
Rhiny's, Frances (Init., NWA; Ram He; 10, Whom Parish Beachardes, Malsos breves only in te gulas (Castari, The Rev David France) type Perning Prace:
38 Hidden and Hill Regist, Restrict Paris, Vil. Warn He; Ham Parish Eardment, O. Myan Erecanong.
38 Hidden and Hill Regist, Restrict Paris, Vil. Warn He; Ham Parish Eardment, Castari, The Rev David Frances, Castari, The Rev David Frances, Castari, The Rev Marie Parish Paris Solems Mage, A. Made Solems acquares on sendence.

28 Suphirt, Glougester Rend, SW7, Kant Om Los Marc Llam Solems Mass, Mant Swen (Serber), Fr R.F. Brufsey, Syn Serberg, Fraver and Bengdelman, States Lam, P.C. Llam Solems Mass, Communicate service (Wirel, The Rev Authors Specificus, Angala Chart, Fleet Soree, Lee's A. Rom His. (J. 11.5 am Morning Prayer, Spannion in G. The Rev D.R. Evans. St Salambat Charch of Sardhigh, Press Street, SW1, 11 cm, a 30pm, The New W. Alexander Crams.

Resen Sunt, (Charch of Sardhind), Rassach Street, WC2 11,158m. The Rev Stanley Head 6,50pm, The Rev Diana Townsond.

her Linkyrifen Semmann, Warreck Street, WI: Karn, Ichon Mans; I kum Sentji Laini Mans, Miron Jamin Sens (Palos-ciant, Ligan, Agus, form Mans, Miron Jamin Sens (Palos-lenn Mans, WI: Sans, Using Mans, 1-4 Francis Edwards, 13 am Solcann Laini Mans, Mans, Increas (Mount), 12 Styles Hour, 4 Chym., 6 Liyan Mans.

By Repub, Haddon's Vendent, EC1: HL3Ones, Dr Dordd Findings Disput SEC (Congregational Productions), in More's Cameric, Old Marylettone Brand, Will Ham, The Rev Pat Convention of Maryletts of the Prograd Lane, NW's 11 cm, The Rev Barry Jones. 2 hants fill, Northwood: Halling Menging Setwine, a Nigas Francia; Service. 50 longs in States (Suckey of St. Plan XX, Sakerton Rood, NY: 10m, Lincon Bustineral Latin Rood, NY: 10m, Lincon Bustineral Latin Rood, NY: 10m, Lincon Bustineral Latin Rood, 2 longs & St. Room Latineral, Certainun Street, ECA. 11 sps. Cheval HC, Ule REv Theoren Brack, Fron The Messach (Highel). Measum (Handel)
Jamin later Christian Community). Owner Cambine
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The Raw E. Capel.
He, The Raw Roger D. Graven; Hain Morning Sarsec, The Raw Roger D. Graven; Hain Morning Sarsec, The Raw Roger D. Graven;
Hattinista Unjul (Independent Semagahan). Saction
mpinum Gist, SWI: Ham, S.Myan, D.F. R. T. Kandelf,
finensing Central finite Capet.
Sactionary Avenue.
WCC: Ham, S.Jipan, The Raw Barie Halbert
Vicensions Banding Section of Princets (Condence). S
Macrario Later, WCC: Ham Morning for Westmidge.

The Busing Browspoor Rend, SW7, 7cm, Sun, Gars, Idean Marce Hant Selector Mates. Mass vessive cells (Geo-venells), 12-70pm Masse, 33,000 solderson vessers. Garder vispo (Agazzani); 4. Vipos, 7pm felipa. 2 Bastonali A. Els Place, ECT I Hart Song, Mass. Por Seat Sunday and Ser Link Station Rend, Prog. East,

Fifth Sunday after Easter op of Dover.

100 MISTER Nam. 3.45aan HC. (Barn Stop Eucharist,
Manus Dreys, (Barinchey). Camon Romald Markedie:
11.10aan Maten. Scaniord in C. Iyon Eventong.
10aad in th. Camon Professor Edward Norman.

Sussell, Chinesian. 7 Areas Maines, dans FAC, Ideas Christ Espelanics, Inchem us G, Cason Alexandr Real-lem. Unjun Changl Eremong, Jordes service (Math-ists, The F. serie Coloni Charle Eventorie, state and series (C. Diant series, The Decision, States and C. Diants and F. H. Schmidter, Cambridge States (F. H. Schmidter, Machine in C. Diants in F. H. Schmidter, States (Byrd), Ulgan Bary St. Edgenstic Festal Charul Eventorie, Babber in A. Riss. Babber in A. Riss. BERNINGS (BURSTALL, T. Charu Morang Proyer, Suntantial (C. Carin Decad Juniope 4) Marin Euchanist, The Vectorious H. Cambridge States (Burstall, Cambridge States (Burstall, Cambridge), Suntantin in G. Der Res Baryan Johnson Morang Marini, United States (Baryan Johnson Marini, United States). con very control to the films Marieta, Veryb-in Williams on Q. The Right Rev Morns Machocks-llum Step Eucherle, Man, he has where (Byrd), The Ven C.M. Phaler, J. Opin Evenous, Magnitum System (Lessboon). as Williams in G. The Right Rev Morris aumitors (Phril),
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Fernance, Household, Goal B.C., The Rew Dr lain Fisher;
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Doo (Haydra), Canon Dr Marine,
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(Wireal).

Philipper SUMERRA: Ann 142, 9 Noon Parkh Companion, Pentrifichi mee (Mantry), Cantre David Junet
(Date Song Enclored, O note and see (Vandam)
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1880 (Milliam). Sam HC. Sam Marias, The Dea Illiam Swag Eucharust, Collegium regule (Howelli Camer Rear Gooddelper from Pressure, Dyson in 1 Canno Reiner Goodsichen dem Erentring, Dyson in D. Cannon Richard Marymord.

WELLS DREEMIA Som HC. 9. Mean Sang Boebarist, D. Reine of the origin mans in B that (Flysholt, The Rev E de N. Lucze; H. 3them Mattins, Short service (Gabbous; John Brenning, Dyson in D. Prebendarly M.D. Ellis.

MERICHER (DREEMIA; Rem HC. HL'Shan Mattha, Windstram Leiner, Merichards), M.D. Ellis.

Enclared Committee of the Property of the Committee of MENTON DETROBUTE, Ram. 9,15 per Euchariet, 10,3 han Madaha, Sandrod in C. 6,30 pm Decanous, and Pro-paratables of Chamateria and Carpanias' America Pitch service (Rondaria). Si Sense 1972, 9,30 pm; Oyanin Bendi-nald, V. S. Gannos / Parchi Eucharias. The Sancestors, LLSsen Corcul Medica, Redand in F. The Coront from Chenal Escanous, Sensond servace (Bystol, The Dean.

57 MREE (2005) Burn HC S 45000 Marine, 1 Haro Song Euclewin, Missa buyén in D (Messat), Canon, Michael Sastard, 315000 Eucleage with Admission of Chroisters, Walmarky and first, The Rev Dr David Stonet, 3.15000 Organ Realtad by Domission Chross-SECULIARIES MARS, has HC: 10-m Marins, Octob cat-MEMBERS MARS, has HC: 10-m Marins, Octob cat-sum (Wood), The Row Charles Lewesters; 11-15 are Abbry Dacharins, Mass her vis (Leighton). Stater His-my Mackey, Jone Economy, Travell in Donince, Cowen Austhony Hawrey, 24-5pm Chonal Re-thal by Banimitton School Chamber Choer, 5-30-m Evening Service, The Row Branch (MEMBER, Vann Encharis); Ham Chonal Ex-charins, Spansonnesse (Motarri, Casson Roy White, Jun Chond Eventon), Broach in J. Cannon Roy White, Zengenzy Psycholos, amg in United Servent and English. CHERRAL OF SWILL Envision Schoolsed, Landester Reach Will (A. Mann Divines Litury). Pholitical Ser-bian Choral Music, rang in Church Servents. SHERRAL OF STREET, LAND STREET, began Gowless. With 11 Jam Menning Proyet. Archivelupy Yoglahr Girichten. Chapel Bayel, St. James's Painers, 8.30nm HC; 11.15nm Movening Proyer, Haver then (Byrd), Carpon G.S. Ped-

J. Vrnt.

3. Spring, Gintsworth Street, NWI: 10. Hing Marine;
Lipus Splenn Man., Crom. J. Wilkinson.
Change, Becombary Way. Lundon WCI: Hinn Sung
Encharth: A.Mipus Berning Prayer.

2 Sample, Banner Spunce, WI: 8.30m HC; Ham
Song Encharts, Misus theres (Dushow), The Rector,
2thanth, Franchite, R.Minn HC; 1 ann Series,
2thanth, Franchite, R.Minn HC; 1 ann Series,
The Rev Doumil, Rawner, 5.45pm Benning, Frayer.

encountry Jonesman Martin, head of | Call us free on 0500 246 246,

If anyone can Canon can



Whenever you're ready to talk, we're ready to listen.

As a nation, we're famous for hiding our feelings.

But are our stiff upper lips one reason we have such a high suicide rate?

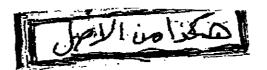
If you find it hard to talk to those around you, perhaps you should consider talking to The Samaritans.

We won't push you to say more than you want to and we won't be offended if you hang up. Equally, we'll be happy for you to phone back later.

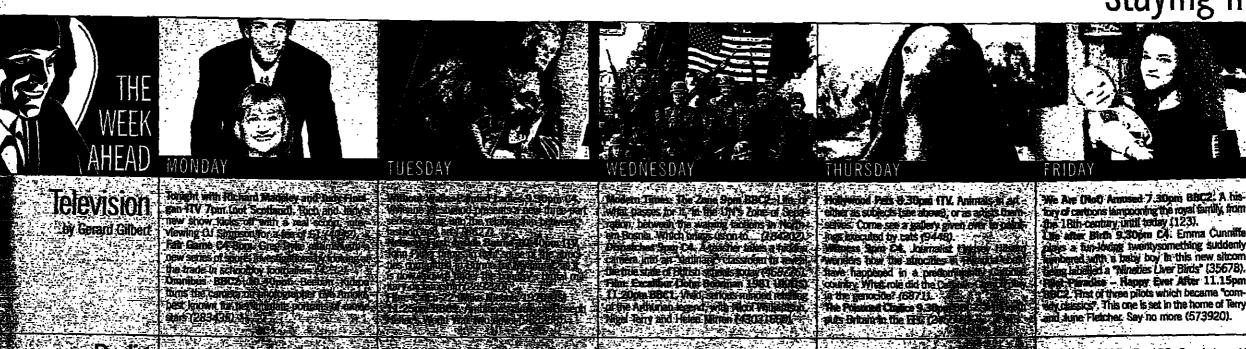
Our number's in the phone book, or you can call our new national number on **0345 90 90 90**. Every call is confidential.

If you're ready to talk, don't bottle it up any longer.

with your line Samaritans



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Modern Tames: The Jame Spar RBC2 | The Dr. William Series of Land Spar RBC2 | The Dr. William Series of Land Se

A Square of Orie's Own, 13 part A. A spooly four-spart account of the Biomerical Set—untopical and unsupple (characters called Mighita Wood and Lytton Strycfinine), but strangely appealing. Jake those stones out of your pockets.

Hollwood Pers & 30pm (TV. Asserties in an editor as subjects (see about), or as adolfs from stiller. Come see a palery given over to palering leached by cats (9448).

Militaries Spor Ct. Journalist Military History Averties from the aboutles in Florida Membra County. What role did the Catalant and District County of the British of the Hay (2005) and the Point of the Hay (2005) and the State of the Catalant in the Hay (2005) and the State of the Catalant in the Hay (2005) and the State of the Catalant in the Hay (2005) and the Catalant in the Cata

Julie Spilet, investments the last unit.
Limb RA. Another open pales to last starting investe Spilet pales with the services of women in his time, contenting with manual the caval and odd messages on his popular.

tory of cartions lampouning the royal family, from the 18th century until today (123). The after Birth 9.300m C4. Emma Cunnific place a fundament successful to the property of the place ly classics. This one is set in the home of Terry

Mining the Archive 3pm R3. On what would have been his 75th birthday, a celebration of the great homoleyer Dennis Brain; the music includes a recital recorded in 1957 for the BBC, a few days before his death.

and June Fletcher. Say no more (573920).

Sunday television and radio

BBC1

7.30 Jim Henson's Animal Show (4895183).

7.55 Playdays (R) (S) (6173102).
8.15 Italianissimo (R) (5347893).
8.30 Breakfast with Frost (14034).
9.30 To Be a Pilgrim (R) (S) (5724560).
9.45 First Light (S) (114676).

10.15 See Heart Magazine for the deaf (S) (106657). 10.45 This Multimedia Business, CD-Roms explained (R) (S) (2416270).

11.00 Local Heroes (R) (S) (9706). * 11.30 Gardening from Scratch. Constructing a simple water feature (R) (S) (1015). * 12.00 CountryFile. With John Craven (Including Weather for the Week Ahead) (S) (56676).

12,30 On the Record (68102). * 1.30 EastEnders Omnibus (R) (S) (5751454). *
2.55 Columbo. Leslie Nielsen – playing it straight – is the guest suspect (4012096). *
4.05 Cartoon (R) (6651034).

Biteback. Viewers complain (S) (8761928). * Masterchef 1996. Loyd Grossman is joined by chef Gordon Ramsay from the Aubergine, London, and cricketer Allan Lamb (S) (7408725).

News; Weather (567015). 5.50 Regional News (769947).

Songs of Praise. From the New Forest, with The Bournemouth Sinfonietta (S) (339544). * Antiques Road Show. The first of four shows from the archives begins with a rare specimen from Devon, circa 1986. In other words, the BBC like the size of the ratings but have come to the end of the present series (R) (S) (519015). *

No Bananas. 2/10. Continuing the sudsy drama about two very different families (one rich: one poor) brought together during the Second World War. Dorothea (Stephanie Beacham) is annoyed when Evelyn (Alison Steadman) insists on taking In evacuess (S) (693676). 8.05 25 Years of the Two Ronnies (627454). *

9.15 News; Weather (133034).*
9.30 Karaoke 3/4. On-going Dennis Potter drama finds
Alison Steadman making her second appearance
of the evening on BBC1 – here as Sandra's

disfigured mother (S) (542831). * 10.25 Everyman, See Preview (S) (407454). *
11.15 Est Dangerous Lialsons (Stephen Frears 1988
UK), See The Big Picture (S) (934454). * 1.10 Weather (5065987). To 1.15am.

REGIONS. Wales: 12.00pm Homeland, 10.25 Answering Back, 10.55 Everyman, 11.45 Cricket. 12.30 Film: Dangerous Liaisons. 2.25 News; Weather.NI: 10.25pm The Clanrye Connection. 11.15 Everyman. 12.05 Film:

BBC2

9.10 Children's BBC: Rupert . 9.15 The Littlest Pet Shop. 9.35 X-Men. 10.00 Fully Booked.

12.00 Regional Programmes (54218). 12.30 Sunday Grandstand. With Sue Barker. 12.35 Touring Cars: coverage of rounds five and six of the AutoTrader RAC British Touring Car Championship from Thruxton. 1.05 Motorcycling: action from round three of the British Superbike Championship from Oulton Park. 1.25 Cricket: Sussex v Warwickshire in the AXA Equity and Law Sunday League. 3.30 Racing: five coverage of the French 1,000 Guineas from Longchamps. Plus news of the Prix Lupin. 3.45 Rugby Union: Highlights of the Middlesex Sevens final from Twickenham. 4.00 Racing: Live coverage of the Execute 2.000 Cuineas from Leaguesters.

French 2,000 Guineas from Longchamps. 4.15
Rugby Union 4.45 Cricket (S) (8545367).
6.20 News Round-Up (489299).
6.35 The End of the Western World. See Preview

7.15 A History of British Art. The Independent's Andrew Graham-Dixon travels to Norfolk, Margate and Dedham Vale, exploring the paintings of Constable and Tumer. Plus the strange world of William Blake and the erotic work of Henry Fuseil (S) (691218).

8.05 Kali the Lion. A female lion's struggle to support her family in Kenya's Musiara marsh while the easy prey – zebra, wildebeest and whatnot – are away on holiday (R) (S) (824270). *

9.00 Fantasy Football League. With Des Lynam, Zoe Ball and Jimmy Hill. Shown on Friday (S) (8164).
9.30 Steptoe and Son (R) (62725). 10.00 Q & A (Sidney Lumet 1990 US). Clean-cut

DA Timothy Hutton investigates thoroughly bad apple cop Nick Nolfe (the best thing in the film) in a New York police department (S) (90711639).

12.05(1998) La Cage aux Folles (Edouard Molinaro 1978) Fr/tt). Much-loved farce is screened in time for you to be able to compare it with the Robin Williams remake, Birdcage. Ugo Tognazzi and the brilliant

Michel Serrault are the gay owners of a Riviera transvestite club. Complications ensue when the ultra-conservative parents of their son's flancée come a-visiting (6952771). Weatherview (3143481). 1.40 Pages from Ceefax (1311684). The Learning Zone: Adults Learning (59810).

4.00 Languages: Learning Languages (33874). 5.00 Business and Work: Work Is a Four-Letter

Word (S) (44077). 5.30 The Knowledge (S)

(16394).*REGIONS. Wales: 12.00pm Welsh Lobby. 1.25 Cricket, 4.45 Cricket, NI: 12.00pm Sounds of

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 The Sunday Review, 6.30 News and Sport. 7.00 The Sunday Programme (30560). 8.00 Disney Adventures. Includes Gummi Bears, Little

Mermaid and Goof Troop (7822676).
9.25 The Adventures of Grady Greenspace (7667299). 9.50 James Bond Jr (\$) (7887657).

10.15 Sunday Heroes (S) (6182034).
10.25 Sunday. Including, at 10.45am, Morning Worship from St Many's Church, Taunton (S) (39686837).

12.10 Link (S) (4692367). * 12.10 Link (5) (4692367). 12.30 Crosstalk (Followed by LWT Weather) (79015). 1.00 News, Weather (40510657). * 1.10 Jonathan Dimbleby. Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness faces Dimbleby and the studio

audlence (S) (4914725).

2.00 Murder, She Wrote. Jessica is invited to a diplomatic reception in Washington. Bad idea. This old bird shouldn't be invited to get out of bed

in the morning (4638021).

2.55 The Sunday Match – Live. Chariton v Crystal

Palace (54680541). 5.10 World of Wonder. Meet some "storm chasers", amateurs who go looking for tomadoes, and a bloke who pursues dangerous sports despite being paralysed from the waist down (2473744).

5.40 London Tonight (558367). *
6.00 News, Weather (496589). *
6.15 Surprise! (S) (947251). *

7.15 Doctor Finlay. One by one the nuns at a convent start to suffer from strange medical symptoms. Last in series. (S) (976763). *

8.15 You've Been Framed! (R) (S) (263541). *
8.45 News, Weather (110522). * 9.00 The Knock. Andreotti goes undercover to crack a ruthless bootlegging gang. (S) (3589). *
10.00 The Clive James Show. Margarita Pracatan, Alan

** Davies and Victoria Wood (S) (422763). 10.45 The South Bank Show. Profile of conductor John Eliot Gardiner, and the Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique (S) (219980). *

11.45 Theatreland, Reviews of Fever Pitch, the stage 11.45 Inearreand. Reviews of rever Frich, the stage play of the Nick Homby book (271560).

12.15 Sledge Hammer. Spoof cop show. (53232).

12.45 See Bandolero! (Andrew V McLaglen 1968 US).

Messy Sixties western with (miscast) outlaws James Stewart and Dean Martin taking Raquel

Welch hostage in their bid to escape the gallows. Co-stars George Kennedy (608619). 2,45 Hindle Wakes (Arthur Crabtree 1952 UK). Cross-class tear-jerker about a Lancashire mill girl who gets involved with the boss's son while on holiday. Oh, the scandal of it (9720972). 4.05 TTV Sport Classics II (17329435). 4.35 Shift (R) (9454313). To 5.30am.

Channel 4

6.10 Trans World Sport (R) (5244638).
7.05 Take 5. With The Magic Roundabout, Bush Tails, Natalie, Ivor the Engine and Joggy Bear (S)

(2481763).
7.35 The Magic School Bus (\$) (4887164).
8.00 Sonic the Hedgehog (46299).
8.30 The Trap Door (5157164).
8.35 Blast Off (\$) (7104367).
8.45 Biker Mice from Mars (\$) (101102).

Saved by the Bell (R) (7669657). * 9,40 Dumb and Dumber (S) (9782283). 10,00 The Bird (S) (2324893). 10.15 Sister Sister (S) (6830096).

10.40 Rocko's Modern Life (S) (8877541). 11.05 insektors (9478893).

11.20 NBA Raw. Chicago Bulls (with Michael Jordan on duty) play the New York Knicks (4570763). 12.15 The Waltons (R) (435831).
1.15 The Waltons (R) (435831).
1.15 The Waltons (R) (435831).

1961 US). Oft-filmed melodrama starring Diane Baker as a Scottish girl who comes to Pennsylvania to find her fiancé has been killed (51057096). * Football Italia, Roma v Internazionale is the last televised match from the Serie A this season (93328639). Zig and Zag's Dirty Deeds. The latest flawed

attempt to launch Big Breakfast presenters on their own (see The Gaby Roslin Show) finds the two furry ones helping Frank Carson fix the Golden Mike Award. The Muppets were doing this sort of stuff decades ago – and better (S) (9884270). * Hollyoaks (R) (S) (773589). *

Babylon 5 (S) (108638). * Hidden Kingdoms, The the Kharest - the monsoon wind of Oman that blows in from the Indian Ocean

Encounters: Lost Paradise. See Preview (1367). * Music and the Mind: Paul Robertson continues his investigation into how music affects us emotionally in terms of the neuropathology of the brain. For example, autistic 21-year-old Tony has the mental age of nine, yet is capable of rocking the house as a

azz musician (S) (4831). * 10.00 City Slickers (Ron Underwood 1991 US). Amusing comedy western starring Billy Crystal, Daniel Stern and Bruno Kirby as middle-age city dwellers who go on a cattle drive to get away from it all. Jack Palance won a Best Supporting Actor Oscar as the head wry old cowboy in charge of the venture, Avoid the sequel (S) (781 11855). *

12.05 Distant Thunder (Satyajit Ray 1973 Ind). Moving account of the famine in Bengal in 1942/43, focused on the experience of a Brahmin doctor and his wife in a small village (813856).

1.55 Feast Day. Animation. (2489690). To 2.10am.

ITV/Regions

Se I makes weent 2 Minor The Proof Street (2909), 2 30 As Lundon excepts 2,00pm 116 Hood Show 25(93), 230 Film: The Asran (85286541), 5.20 Headcom (6247657), 11.45 Film: The Big Red One (681638), 1.45am Hotel Bobyton (1197656), 2.30am Best of British Moter Sport 6896(J. 8.00am Furny Busness (8777), 1.330am Shift (50058), 4.30-5.30am All in a Good Cause (97503).

TYRE TRES/TORRISHBE As Landon graph; 12.30pm Tyre: Newsweek (4634947). Varies: The Powers That Be (4634947), 2.00 The Rock and Goel Years (2909). 2.30 Cartoon (2411183). 2.35 Films: The Caine Muttry (96578152). 4.50 RoboCop (6838305). 11.45 Films: Who's That Gat (35520) (6838305). 11.45 Films: Who's That Gat (35520). A.OSam Profile (69784771). 4.15-5.30am Jobilnote (6382526).

Cannon.

As Landon except: 12.30pm Central Newsweek (4534947). 2.00 Good Advice (2909). 2.30 The Central Match (74557725). 5.05 Suntimastes (9340251). 5.25 Our House (5246926). 11.45 Var of the World (215164). 4.05em Jubinder (3031874). 5.20-5.30em Asian Eye (3046400).

HTV As London except: 12.30pm West: Wish You Were Here...? (4G34947). Water: Wetch Agenda (4G34947). 2.00 Emmediale (7163454). 2.50 All in a Good Cause. (1629980). 3.55 West: How Time Files (6195522). Waters House (3665580). 4.25 West: Film: The Captain's Table (7321367). 4.55 West: SenQuest DSV (1780947). 11.45 Film: The Big Red One (63) 6380. 1.45am Hotel Babyton (7197665). 2.30am Best of Bristh Motor Sport (98961). 3.00am Furthy Business (82777). 3.30am Shift (50058). 4.30-5.30am All in a Good Cause (97503).

HERDIAN
As London except: 12.30pm Seven Days (8927819).
2.00 Make ten Langh (2909). 2.30 Film: Toral Toral Toral (839251). 5.00 Highway to Heaven (8231725).
11.45 Film: The Big Red One (681638). 1.45am Hotor Sport (98961). 3.00am Funny Business (82771).
3.30am Shiff (50038). 4.30-5.50am All In a Good Curse (97503).

As-London amount: 12.30pm Westcountry Undate (4634947). 2.00 Dogs with Dumber (2909). 2.30 Pow-er Game (454). 3.00 Film: Rough Cut (41589). 5.00 Dr Qulma, Medicine Woman (8231725). 11.45 Film:

The Big Red One (681638), 1.45am Hotel Bubylon (1197665), 2.30am Best of British Motor Sport (98961), 3.00am Funny Busness (82771), 3.30am Shift (50058), 4.30-5.30am All in a Good Cause (7778)

840 As C4 except: 6.10 mm Transworld Sport (52446381, 7.05 Take Five (2481763), 8.00 The Adventures of Sonic (46299), 10.10 Hollycals (2202638), 10.40 Sister Sister (8877541), 1.15 Babyton 5 (8304580), 2.10 Tony Tymor (348788), 3.10 Terrytoons (3570675), 3.25 Film: Smilly (43866034), 5.00 Zig and Zag's Dirly Dends (7831), 5.30 Pobol Y Cwm (32756638), 7.25 Dedrau Carni Dechrair (887/02), 7.55 Neuwritinn (624980) LOS SLI PTIM (1662299). 8.50 Tair Gwalth Y Sul (349947). 9.20 Salth Ar Y Sul (1.14909). 9.40 San Stel-tan (369657). 10.00 Ptim: Apocalypse Now (83582251). 12.50-1.50em Witness: Trying Teate (96-75394).

Radio

Radio 1

(97.6-99.8MHz FM) 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 2.00 Trevor Naison's Rhythm Nation 4.00 UK Top 40 7.00 The Bryan Ferry Story 8.00 John Peel 10.00 Andy Kershaw 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 4.00-6.30am Charlie Jordan Radio 2

(98-90.2MHz FMD

7.00am Don Maclean 9.05 Steve Wright's Sunday Love Songs 11.00
Parkinson's Sunday Supplement
1.00 Desmond Carrington 3.00
Bentry Green 4.00 Radio 2 Young
Musician 1996 4.30 Sing Some-Musician 1996 4.30 Sing Some-thing Simple 5.00 Pam Ayres 7.00 Charles Dance 8.30 Sunday Half Hour 9.00 Alan Keith 10.00 When the Music Stopped 12.05 Steve Madden 3.00-6.00am Alex Lester

Radio 3

902-924Mb NO 7.00am Sacred and Profese 8.55 Choice of Three. With planist 9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning.

12.15 Music Matters.
1.00 News; Role Play. Max.
Michael Billington talks to Warren Mitchell and Timothy West about their experiences playing the partiarchal character of Max in Harold Pinter's play The Homecoming, first performed at the RSC in 1965, (2/5). 1.25 North Wales Music Festival. Schubert: String Quartet Move-ment in C minor. Tippett: String

Quartet No 5. Schubert: String

Quintet In C. 2.55 Spirit of the Age. 3.55 Kettle's Yard Music. (3/3). 5.45 The Sunday Feature: High Priestess of the Keyboard. A

Choice. 6.30 Lars Vogt. Haydn: Piano Sonata in G. Brahms: Piano Sonata in F minor, Op 5. a Slow Train. Award-winning to the theme of composers with a tascinating look at the complex relationship between the young eagle' Johannes Brahms and his devoted mentors Robert and Clara Schumann. See Choice.

Psychology. 8.30 (FM) Leviathan. 9.00 (FM) Relatively Speaking. 9.30 (FM) Condoms for Elephants. 9.15 Choir Works, Elgar: The Aposties. Introduced by Brian Wright. 11.30 Thai Music. (3/3). 12.00 Record Review. 9 59 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.15 All in the Mind. 1.15 Through the Night: Mozart's Die Zauberflote. 4.15 Rebel Ensemble

All you ever wanted to know about Clara Schumann: her life explored in High Priestess of the Keyboard (5.45pm R3); her relationship with Robert and Brahms dramatised in Brahms on a Slow Train (7.30pm R3), with Denis Quilley, (left); and from tomorrow she's "Composer of the Week".

Radio 4 02.494.6Mb PM 198Mb (M) 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Something Understood. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.10 Sunday Papers. 7.15 On Your Farm.

7.40 Sunday. 8.50 The Week's Good Cause. 9.00 News. 9.10 Sunday Papers. 9.15 Letter from America. 9.30 Morning Service. 11.15 Mediumwaya 11.45 A View from Abroad. (3/6). 12.15 Desert Island Discs. With co-

median Hugh Laurie. 1.00 The World This Weekend 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 Gerdaners' Question Time.
2.30 The Classic Serial: Marriage. by 3.30 Pick of the Weel

4.15 The Purple, the Blue and the Red. (1/3). 5.00 News; Hitchcock on the Moor. Journalist 5.30 Poetry Plaesel 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather 6.00 Stx O'Clock News. 6.15 Feedback

6.30 In Business 7.00 Children's BBC Radio 4: Hacker. By Matorie Blackman. 7.30 Reading Aloud: Growing Up. 8.00 (FM) The Natural History Pro-

gramme. 8.00 (LW) Open University. 8.00 Lit-erary Criticism — A User's Guide: F R Leavis. 8.30 Maths Miscellary. 9.00 American Conversations: David Brower, 9.20 Talking about the Enlightenment 9.40 The Changing Face of

Satellite

SKY DNE 6.00am Hour of Power (94034).

11.45 Seeds of Faith. 12.00 News. 12.20 Bells on Sunday. 12.30 The Late Story. SALY INCOMES 5.50 inshore Forecast. 5.55-6.00am (FM) The Radio 4UK Thems. 5.55-6.00am (LW) Shipping Fore-

Radio 5 (83,90%) Mily 6.05am Brief Lives 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Sunday with Mair 11.35 Special Assignment 12.05 The Big Byte 12.35 The Game's Up 1.05 Baker and Kelly Up Front 2.30 Sunday Sport 6.05 Jim and the Doc 7.00 News Extra 7.35 You Cannot 7.00 News Extra 7.35 for Carnot Be Serious 8.35 Caught on the Web 9.00 Dailyn Worldwide 10.05 The Jab 10.35 Out This Week 11.00 Night Extra 11.35 Sports/Inerica 12.05 Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

Classic FM (100.0-101.9WIb FMS 6.00am Sarah Lucas. 9.00 Classic Romance, 12.00 Celebrity Choice. 1.00 Alan Mann. 3.00 Master-class. 4.00 Classic Discoveries. 7.00 Classic Countdown Too 10, 8,00 Classic FM Evening Concert. 10.00 Howard's Week 12.00 Andre Leon.4.00-6.00am Mark Grif-

Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1260kh km 105,8kilk Ali) 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00 Graharn Dene 2.00 Nicky Home 5.00 Mitch Johnson 10.00 Gary Davies 2,00-6,00am Robin Banks World Service

(1994b) 14 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Develop-ment '96 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 the Move 3.00 Newsday 3.30 About Roundup 4.30 Jazz for the Asking 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30 Off the Sheli-Tess of the D'Urbervilles 5.30 Europe Today 5.45-6.00am Country Style

6.00am Hour of Power (94034).
7.00 Undum (8067270). 11.30
Choul-Lasted (11541). 12.00 Hit
Mix (24170). 1.00 Star Trek
(25218). 2.00 Star Trek: Deep
Space Nine (34980). 4.00 WWF
(42544). 5.00 Great Escapes
(3837). 5.30 Power Rangers
(9164). 6.00 The Sampsons
(9164). 6.00 The Sampsons
(9305). 7.00 Star Trek: Deep
Space Nine (41855). 9.00 High-lander (42909). 11.00 Rangagale
(45096). 11.00 Blue Thunder
(41819). 12.00 60 Minutes
(73503). 1.00 Sunday Comics

SXY MOWES
6.00am Stage Struck (1958)
(83576). 8.00 Miracle of Our
Lady of Fathma (1952) (60744).
10.00 Lad: A Dog (1962)
(91251). 12.00 The Secret
Garden (1993) (246299). 3.55
Pee-Wee's Big Adventure (1985)
(492292). 5.30 Free Willy
(1993) (39454). 7.30 Chartle's
Ghost Story (1994) (75744).
9.00 Murder One (60305).
10.00 Pulp Fiction (1994).
(53898003). 12.35 Movie Show
(3015874). 1.05 Man Without a
Face (1993) (578077). 3.05
PCU (1994) (3610481). 4.25-6.00am Pee-Wee's Big Adventure
(1995) (168771).

MONE CHANNEL MOYE CHARGE.
6.00am Showsways on the Ark
(67909). 7,30 Tom Sawyer
(1985) (60096). 8,30 Boop Cop
a Doop (1985) (73638). 10,00
Vergeance of She (1967).
(93803). 12,00 Will Success
Spoil Rock Hunter? (1957).
(53909). 2,00 Seasons of the
Heart (1994) (97893). 3,30 Ef
resture (6831). 4,00 Majority
Rule (1992) (2928). 6,00 Desth
of a Cheerleader (1994) (47454).
8,00 Maverick (1993) (59299).
10,00 Confessions of a Soprity 8.00 Maverick (1,993) (19929).
10.00 Contessions of a Sorority
Girl (1,994) (1,4386). 11.30 Micdel by Day (1,993) (252657). 1.05
Hollywood Madem (1,994)
(5487348). 2.35 Bloodhist: Subspecies III (1,993) (4824936).
4.00-6.00am Vengeance of She
(1967) (40348).

SHY MONTES COLD 2.00pm From This Day Forward (1946) (819909). 1.50 That's Enterlaimmenti (1974) (18621034). 4.00 The Assassination Bureau (1968) (3218). 6.00 Julia (1977) (21454). 8.00 Java 3 (1983) (33299). 10.00 Overboard (1987) (51748). 12.00 Verentinot (1986) (811955). Youngblood (1986) (811955), 1.50-4.30am Kagamusha (1980) (25182232).

UE COLD

7.00am Give Us a Clue (7598522). 7.30 Going for Gold (2425251). 7.55 Pink Panther (9032299). 8.05 Angels (7182396). 9.00 When the Boat (7182390). 300 When the book Comes in (3872947). 10.00 Blake's Seven (7506541). 11.00 Writz Short (75334589). 11.10 Dr Who (44777270). 1.00 Film: Diagnosis of Murder (84931589). 2.50 Paul Daniels (6430251). 3.00 The SRI Compiles 2.50 Paul Dames (64-30251).
3.00 The Bill Ormibus
(73354095). 5.20 To the Manor
Born (3763560). 6.00 The Two
Ronnies (7704947). 7.00 Morecambe & Wise (2169893). 8.00
Poldark (75999299). 9.05 I,
Claudius (20816819). 10.10 Mother Lave (28451096), 11.15 Bob Monkhouse (5019909). 12.05 Six Wives of Henry VIII (2343868), 1.40-3.00am Shop-

SID SPORTS 7000at (37.53). 1.30 doi: (738611). 4.30 Superbites (36305). 5.30 Superbites (759541). 8.00 Superbites (95015). 10.00 Rugby (67744). 12.00 Cricket (19329). 1.00-3.00am Super League (72503).

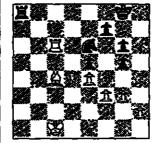
SAY SPORTS 2 3at 3-rokis 2, 7,00am Soccer Extra (1878367), 11.00 Roller Hockey (9315378), 12.00 Roller Hockey (9315378), 12.00 Roller (6848102), 7.30 Max Out (9749812), 8.00 Roller Hockey (9626096), 9.00 Golf (9629183), 11.00-1.00am Golf (4275164). LIVETY

6.00am Video Box. 6.30 Home

Shopping, 7.00 Video Box. 7.30 Fate & Fortune, 8.00 425, 9.00 Mind & Body, 9.30 Weigh to Go. 10.00 Fashion Show, 10.30 10.00 Fashion Show. 10.30 Spanish Archer. 11.00 Video Box. 12.00 Fate & Fortune. 12.30 Why Files. 1.00 425. 2.00 Sport Live. 3.00 Canary Witarf (Omnibus). 5.00 Weigh to Go. 5.30 Fashion Show. 6.00 Video Box. 6.30 Spanish Archer. 7.00 425. 8.00 Nationweld. 9.00 Lunchbox Video Box. 10.30 Weight. 9.00 Lunchbox. Video Box. 10.30 Weight. 10. Volley Ball. 9.30 Why Files. 10.00 Topless Darts. 10.30 The Fashion Show. 11.00 Topless Darts. 11.30 Stand Up Live. 12.00 Lunchbox Votley Ball, 12.30 Weird Night, 1.00 Home Shopping, 1.30 Spanish Archer, 2.00 425, 3.00 The Sex Show. 2.30 Stand Up Live 4.00 Fate & Fortune, 4.30 Why Files 5.00 Home Shopping, 5.30-6.00am Pashion Show.

Pastimes

Chess William Hartston



This position, from the game Ivkov-Petrosian, Rio de Janeiro 1979, is included in Jan Timman's Studies and Games, published by Cadogan Chess. At the time of the game, Timman and Petrosian were in close competition to qualify for the world title Candidates matches. It was the final round, and Petrosian's game seemed to be heading for a draw.

In the diagram position, rook off the c-file." with lvkov short of time, Petrosian played 1...Nd4! and too easy to believe.

Ivkov's reply was, in Tim-

man's words, "an unbehevable mistake". He can force a draw with 2.Rxg6+ Kf8 3.Bxf7! Kxf7 4.Rxg5 when Nxf3? loses to Rf5+, so Black must allow the exchange of his last pawn.

Instead, Ivkov played 2.Rc7? and after 2...Rf8! could not defend his f-pawn. He played 3.f4, but after 3...gxf4 4.gxf4 exf4 5.Kd2 Nf3+ 6.Ke2 Ne5 7.Rc5 Re8 8.Bb5 Re7 White resigned. But was 2.Rc7 so unbelievable? With the clock ticking after 1...Nd4, White must have thought: "He can't do that, I can take on g6 with check. Hang on, after 2.Rxg6+ Kf8 my rook's attacked and 3.Rf6

Rc8 4.Rxf7+ Ke8 loses me a

piece. Ah, I can play 2.Rc7,

attacking f7 and keeping his Like most blunders, it's all

Perplexity

Mixed doubles:

Albion hyphens try tender earthly storey

The above sentence hides the names of three people who have been in the news this week. To find them (in each case a first name plus surname), you must group the six words into three pairs then rearrange the letters within each pair. A Larousse Desk Reference Encyclopedia awaits the first correct answer opened on 22 May. Answers to: Saturday Pastimes, the Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

27 April answers:

Boris Yeltsin (Tonsil, rise, by); Nelson Mandela (And, solemn, lane); Helmut Khol (hot hulk elm). Winner: Jason Elder (Nor-

Bridge Alan Hiron

◆AJ82 ♥K75 OAK8 ♣AK9 East **105 ◆**KQ97643

East-West game; dealer East

North

◊J1092 ◊Q5 ‡O 10 South **♠**none ♥Q2 ◊7643 **48765432**

♥108643 ♥AJ9

Most rubber bridge players like to keep their jump overcalls up to trength - a good sixcard suit in a hand that would

onward Jonethan Martin, head of Call us Tree on 0500 245 246.

have opened the bidding, say. The modern duplicate player prefers to play them as weak (if not frighteningly weak!). East opened 1 • and South rated his hand as worth 3. (I like to think I am a modern

player, but not that modern!) North, clearly expecting slightly more opposite, launched into a Blackwood enquiry and, on finding South aceless, setiled for 6♣. West led the ♦ 10 against

the slam and it was up to South to justify his bidding. Prospects looked poor - an ace was missing and it seemed there was an inescapable loser in diamonds. Nor was it certain that the missing trumps were 2-1.

Declarer did all the right things. As he had no good immediate discard on the A he played low from dummy and ruffed in hand. He then drew trumps in two rounds and led a low heart from the You have to feel sorry for

East. If he took his VA, South could throw his two losing diamonds on the A and the ♥K; if he played low, South's solitary feature would score and the other losing heart go away on the A. Later, the fourth round of diamonds would be ruffed on the table.

It was a good example of the play that has been called Morton's Fork.

If anyone can Canon can

<u>16</u>



The big picture Dangerous Liaisons Sun 11.15pm BBC1

John Malkovich is at his best when he is playing a salivating insinuator; witness his masterful assassin in In the Line of Fire. He curls his lip to similarly devastating effect as the lupine Vicomte de Valmont, sexually plotting with the scheming Marquise de Merteuil (the equally compelling Glenn Close) in Stephen Frears's exquisite realisation of Dangerous Liaisons. Christopher Hampton's fiercely intelligent reading of the play about 18th-century mores by Choderlos de Laclos rightly picked up the Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar in 1988.

Television preview

RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND by Gerard Gilbert 👺



Captives Sat 9.45pm BBC2 Later with Jools Holland Sat 11.55pm BBC2 The End of the Western World Sun 6.35pm BBC2 Lost Paradise, Encounters Sun 8pm C4 Everyman Sun 10.25pm BBC1

Julia Ormond (a prettier version of Julia Roberts, for the uninitiated), would you risk losing your sanity, career and even your liberty for Tim Roth? Al Pacino, Brad Pitt or Daniel Day-Lewis, maybe. But Tim

This isn't just rather cruel idle speculation. It goes to the heart of Captives (BBC2 Sat), Frank Deasy's well-written Screen Two about a prison dentist (Ormond) who starts an affair with an inmate (Roth). Now, Roth is a man who has built a surprisingly profitable career out of playing wry young punks, but no one - not even Quentin Tarantino - has tried casting him as a romantic lead before. You can sense why they did ("two of Britain's rising stars in Hollywood" reads the Beeb blurb), but it stretches the central credibility of an otherwise modestly admirable piece. Captives is peppered with, in British terms, star players (Keith Allen, Sjobhan Redmond, Peter Capaldi, Colin Salmon) in roles that could safely have

While the blokes discuss the finer merits of Liverpool and Manchester United, here is one of life's imponderables for the ladies. If you were been left to less recognisable faces. But the real find first national parks, including Yosemite Judging from the trailer-park and motel-littered landscape of this might be so porty about her. A fine, pared-down per-film. Americans owe John Minir a large debt. formance.

Understated isn't a word you'd apply to Martin Jacques, former deputy editor of this paper, as he charges around the countries of East Asia in The End of the Western World (Sun BBC2), a title that catches your attention without what it heralds necessarily telling you much that is new. In a nutshell, the fivecentury-old domination of Europe and the West is at an end. All hail the mighty "tiger" economies of Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea. China and Japan.

The Encounters film Lost Paradise (Sun C4) has a genial American bod called Robert Perkins borrowing a motorbike from his neighbour, strapping a possessions of its disciples and exploiting their camera and pet terrier to the sidecar, and setting off in the footsteps of John Muir. The Scottish-born Muir

For muse-purists, a seventh series of Later with Jools Holland (Sat BBC2) ticks off with Willy Nelson, the Cure, Tasmin Archer and Mark Morrison. The "in the round" format of the show, with the bands facing each other in a circle, provides a welcome competitive element, although it doesn't manage to do anything for Robert Smith's singing. Everyman (Sun BBC1), meanwhile, has a rivering film about the Jesus Army, a religious outfit that has created its own kind of state-within-a-state, complete with supermarkets, garages and an extensive property portfolio. labour. The Jesus Army largely target the young and homeless, and you won't easily forget the image of



A STANDARD

Fr. 14

194

71. W 199

The big match Manchester United v Liverpool Sat 3pm BBC1

The BBC is drafting in 90 people and 18 cameras to send its footage of the FA Cup Final between Manchester United and Liverpool to more than 100 countries around the world. Des Lynam hosts BBC1's five and a quarter hours coverage, which sadiy lacks the it's a Knackout contest of old. The match itself looks evenly balanced, with both teams boasting exciting playmakers. Will Uverpool prove more motivated now that Manchester United, under Alex Ferguson (above), already have the Premiership trophy nestling in their cabinet?

Saturday television and radio

BBC₁

7.25 News; Weather (2078850).
7.30 Children's BBC: Willy Fog. 7.55 Robinson Sucroe.
8.15 The Raccoons. 8.45 Marvel Action Hour. 9.45 Grange Hill. 10.15 Sweet Valley High.
10.35 The O Zone. Jackson family offspring 3T are guests and Take That's manager Nigel Martin talks about his latest signing, Kavanah (S) (8827546).
11.00 Harry and the Hendersons (R) (3812492). *
11.20 Cartoon (9388661).

11.30 Camp Wilder. Yeen sitcom (5558). 11.57 Weather (5151817). 12.00 FA Cup Final Grandstand. It's Cup Final Day, of course, and the encounter between Manchester United and Liverpool dominates today's proceedings. 12.05 Tearn News. 12.20 Cup Final Build-Up. 1.00 News followed by an exclusive interview with Eric Cantona. 1.05 Cup Final Build-Up: the teams arrive and inspect the pitch, plus more action from the previous rounds. 2.15 Meet The Teams. 2.30 Pre-Match Build-Up: including the traditional singing of "Abide with Me" and a penalty shoot-out between team members from the 1977 final. 3.00 The FA Cup Final: live coverage of Manchester United v Liverpool (S) (95920343). *

5.14 Alternative Schedule (If extra time is played), 5.40 News; Weather, 5.50 Local News; Weather, 5.55 As billed. (Stay Tooned is dropped) (5559492).

5.15 News; Weather (7311701). 5.25 Local News, Weather (5587275).

Stay Tooned! With Tony Robinson (S) (161256). 5.55 Big Break: Stars of the Future (S) (164343). * 6.25 The New Adventures of Superman (S) (253445). 7.10 Confessions. Meet the bloke who stole the ball during rugby union's 1991 Pilkington Cup Final.

And more (S) (173898). * 7.50 The National Lottery Live. Gloria Estefan gets the balls rolling (S) (417188). 8.05 Bugs. There's been a computer crash at the East European Monetary Commission, aimed at

destabilising the region. Enter three former soap stars (S) (495343). *

8.55 News and Sport; Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) (266701). *

9.15 IREAL Praying Mantis (James Keach 1992 US).

Jane Seymour as a husband-dispatching serial killer has to be one of the great pieces of Barry Bostwick, and Frances Fisher as a suspicious ootential sister-in-law (115985). * 10.45 Match of the Day - FA Cup Final Highlights. With

Desmond Lynam (S) (4022072). 11.55 Mannequin (Michael Gottlieb 1987 US). Alleged comedy about a young man (Andrew McCarthy) who discovers an ancient Egyptian spirit is embodied in a department-store mannequin. His passion for the dummy concerns his friends. Kim

Cattrall co-stars (658237). * 1.20 Weather (8288469). To 1.25am. REGIONS. NI: 11.55 Rugby Special. 12.25 Film: Mannequin, 1.50 Weather.

BBC₂

Open University: Are You Being Served? (7288188). 6.25 Maths (7267695). 6.50 Systems: Coping with Queues (5290188). 7.15 The Sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia (3243879). 7.40 Elements Organised – The Periodic Table (4822237), 8.05 Utilitarianism: A Lecture by Bernard Williams (7338633), 8.30 The Island: An Historical Production? (8802053). 8.55 Energy at the Crossroads (8821188). 9.20 Surviving the Exam (7697430). 9.45 Alaska - The Last Frontier? (6212898). 10.10 Going with the Flow (6879985). 10.35 Managing Schools (8925188). 11.00 Statistics: Ecological Predictions (6871633). 11.25 Desertification – A Threat to Peace? (S) (3828053). 11.50 Blue

Haven (8624237). * 12,15 Love Me Tonight (Rouben Mamoulian 1932 US). One of the greatest musicals ever made, finely scored by Rodgers and Hart, about a penniless Parisian tailor (Maurice Chevalier) mistaken for an eligible nobleman by a princess. Jeanette

lacDonald (2384850). * 1.40 Srigadoon (Vincente Minnelli 1954 US). Famous for its Hollywood studio recreation of the Scottish Highlands and some of the most atrocious Scottish accents ever aimed at a microphone. Minnelli's musical has Americans Gene Kelly and Van Johnson stumbling on a village which comes to life on one day every century (42352188). *
3.25 Gigi (Vincente Minnelli 1958 US). "Thank Heavens for Little Girls" and all that, in Lerner and Loewe's cheerful, super-confident musical version of the Colette story set in 1890s Paris. With Leslie

Caron, Maurice Chevalier, Louis Jourdan, and Hermione Gingold (22541576). * 5.15 The 1996 RFU Awards. Highlights of this year's Rugby Football Union awards dinner (1908527). Members on the March: A Scrutiny Film. Miriam O'Callaghan questions the Armed Forces Select Committee over issues such as whether gays should be admitted and why there are so few

ethnic minorities in the services (527275). * 6.50 What the Papers Say. With Bronwen Maddox of the Financial Times (S) (128362). News and Sport; Weather (701879). *

7.20 Correspondent. Jane Corbin reports from India on on how the switch from traditional fish-farming methods to intensive production are resulting in increased pollution. Plus how drug users are handled in Tokyo and Norfolk Island's campaign for independence from Australia (S) (811546). * 8.05 FDR. World War Two ends this handsome

Roosevelt biography (2027594). *
9.15 Have I Got News for You. With Martin Clunes, Neil Morrissey and Claire Rayner (294411). *
9.45 Screen Two: Captives. See Preview (S) (436661).

11.25 Steptoe and Son (896695). 11.55 Later with Jools Holland. See Preview (S) (932701). To 1.10am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV 6.00 News; Weather, 6.10 Re-Win.d. 6.30 Bananas in Pyjamas. 6.40 Eat Your Words, 7.10 Barney and Friends, 7.40 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room, 8.55 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers

(1513530). Scratchy & Co. Including 10.05 Batman: the Animated Series, followed by Are You Afraid of the Dark? 11.00 Massive on the Isle of Wight. With Matt Venn, Sean Maguire and the Mizz Magazine Roadshow (S) (18387614).

11.30 The Chart Show (R) (S) (30879). 12.30 The Basement. New series with Sonya Saul meeting celebs and pop bands. Top DJ Carl Cox. discusses Ecstasy and dance drugs, and the sisters of Ecstasy victim Leah Betts talk about her death. With music from Indie band Bawl (42594).

News, Weather (58435188). * 1.05 Local News, Weather (58434459). * 1.10 Movies, Games and Videos (1945966). 1.45 The Making of Broken Arrow (R) (776430). 2.15 Time Trax (S) (7146091).

3.00 Airwolf (R) (9504140). 3.55 RoboCop (S) (6144898). 4.50 News, Weather (6141169). *
5.05 Local News, Weather (7317985). *

Baywatch Nights. Baywatch spin-off finds Mitch, Garner and Ryan search for a runaway girl who has witnessed the murder of a record-label executive (S) (1995053). * International Gladiators (S) (151256). *

Man O'Man. Chris Tarrant chaperones another 10 boys as they meet the all-female studio audience (S) (457362). *

(S) (457362). *

8.05 Stars in Their Eyes. People impersonate Billy Idol, Janet Jackson, Julio Iglesias and Jean-Luc Godard (Including Lottery Result) (S) (406459). *

8.50 News; National Lottery Update; Weather (Followed by LWT Weather) (278546). *

9.05 London's Burning. The Blue Watch reruns continue with the boys rescuing an old fireman from a blaze and Colin's probationary period coming to an end (R) (S) (577492). *

10.05 INTELLIBET Dirty Dancing (Emile Ardolino 1987 US). A bright dance musical carries along a bubble-headed, retro-vision of growing up in the 1960s, with doctor's daughter Jennifer Gray learning to with doctor's daughter Jennifer Gray learning to love and dance in the company of working class instructor Patrick Swayze (S) (170695). *

11.55 Funny Business. With Craig Charles and John Thomson of The Fast Show (S) (494411). 12,25 Pyjama Party (S) (6040980). 1.55 Tropical Heat (R) (S) (1381763).

2.45 El News Review. Entertainment news (1252541). 3.35 God's Gift. Similar idea to Man O' Man (see earlier), with Davina McCall in the Chris Tarrant role (R) (1125251).

4.30 Cool Vibes (S) (46943034). 4.40 ITV Sport Classics II (64012522). 5.05 Coach (R) (S) (5056893).

5.30 News (64367), To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.05 Sesame Street (R) (5270053). 7.00 Little Dracula (R) (8176169). 7.35 World League Football (R) (4810492).
8.00 Trans World Sport (10256).
9.00 The Morning Line. Preview of today's horse racing

10.00 The Greatest. Jeffrey Archer foins in to consider Sir Leonard Hutton and Sebastian Coe (R) (S)

(99091). * 10.30 NBA 24/7 (R) (81362). 11.00 Gazetta Football Italia (94463). 12.00 Sign On: Secret Dreams (72614).

12.30 The Great Maratha (4665817).
12.55 The Great Maratha (4665817).
12.55 The Adventures of Don Juan (Vincent Sherman 1949 US). William Faulkner was one of the many writers who worked on this rather downbeat, semi-satirical swashbuckler, with Errol Flynn rescuing Queen Margaret of Spain from her enemies, Economically, it apparently incorporates tootage from The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (see later) and The Adventures of Robin

Hood (59294324). *
2.55 The Unicom in the Garden. The James Thurber story in an animation classic from 1953, directed

by Bill Hurtz (7614169).

Bill Hurtz (7614169).

Bill Hurtz (7614169).

Chichael Curtiz 1939 US). Bette Davis' Queen Elizabeth I completely overshadows Errol Flynn's Essex - and, without some daredevil swordsmanship to distract from his acting, Flynn looks like he's not enjoying himself. Davis herself had lobbied for Laurence Olivier (88396362). *

5.05 Brookside Omnibus (R) (S) (7325053). *

6.30 Right to Reply (459). *
7.00 A Week in Politics. With Vincent Hanne and

Andrew Rawnsley (S) (7430).

8.00 Cutting Edge: Sodden Death. Repeat documentary following the work of Carol-Jordan and Joan Carter, who work as funeral officers for Hackney Council In east London, identifying those who die alone and unknown (R) (3850). *

9.00 The Gaby Roslin Show. Cybill Shepheld is a confirmed guest (S) (3614).

10.00 Drop the Dead Donkey. The sitcom news team decide how far to bow under Government pressure

10.30 Table Night of the Living Dead (George A Romero 1968 US). Seminal horror movie, moving the whole genre into the modern era, finds the dead resurrected by radiation fallout and acquiring a

taste for human flesh (27080576). * 12.25 Homicide - Life on the Street. Baltimore cop show from Barry Levinson. Tempers flare on the night shift because the air conditioning has been shut off (R) (S) (7934763). *

1.25 To Heal a Nation (Michael Pressman 1988 US). True story in which Eric Roberts (brother of Julia) plays Vietnam veteran Jan Scruggs who leads the campaign to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington (468102). * To 3.10am.

ITV/Regions

AttGLIA
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos
(42594), 1.10 Film: You Ruined My Life (51837782).
3.00 SeaQuest DSV (9503140), 11.55 Live from the
Lilydrome (387237), 1.00am Pylerna Party (20367).
2.30am Furny Business (36744), 3.00am Pilm: Beautiful but Dangerous (268305), 4.45am Music Box ProRis (46922541), 5.00-5.30am Wanted Dead or Alive
(79385).

THE TES/MORISHINE

As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Garries and Videos (42594), 1.10 Surfamestes (7354445), 2.05 Film: Disney's Son of Fubber (931817), 3.0 Anvoil (6136879), 11.55 Tales from the Crypt (494411), 12.25am Funny Business (4892522), 12.55am Prjama Party (2109560), 2.25am The War of the Worlds (7798015), 3.15am Customs Classified (2265560), 4.00am Coach (32643611), 4.25am Cue the Music (2447164), 5.20-5.30am Profile (3159928).

CBITINI.

As Lundon except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42594). 1.10 Maile am Laugh (31319985). 1.40 Wanted Diesd or Albe (3969)8980. 2.10 Warner Brothers Cartoon (1570461-9). 2.30 Baywatch (9037188). 3.25 Aironti (9523275). 4.20 Bady Heat (6002817). 5.10 Warner Brothers Cartoon (5584188). 3.35am Joblind-Warner Brothers Cartoon (5584188). 3.35am Joblinder (335102). 5.20-5.30am Asian Eye (3159928).

BIV As London except: 12:30pm The Munsters Today (4259-4). 1.10 West: House (79-45966). Weles: Roadrumner (313):9985). 1.40 Weles: Carborn Time (31493527). 1.45 Movies, Garnes and Video: (776430). 2.15 Film: The Trial of the Incredible Hulk (795527). 4.00 Babman (390324). 11.55 Use from the Llydrome (387237). 1.00am Pyjema Party (20367). 2.30am Funny Business (36744). 3.00am Film: Beautiful but Dangerous (268305). 4.45am Music Box Profile (46922541). 5.00-5.30am Wented Deed or Alive (79346). 5.30am Wanted Dead or Alive (79386).

ISERBULAN

As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42594). 1.10 Wenner Carbon (550/48504). 1.30 Wanted Dead or Aliva (92035). 2.00 The Mursters Today (5091). 2.30 The Road Show (508). 11.55 Live from the Lilydrone (387/237). 1.00am Pyjama Party (20367). 2.30am Frimy Business (367/49). 3.00am Films Beautiful but Dangerous (268305). 4.45am Music Box Profile (46922541). 5.00-5.30am Freescreen (79385).

As London except: 12-30pm Movies, Games and Videos AS LONDON EXCEPT 12-3 Upon MOVES, CATTES A O VICES (42594), 1.10 Stuntmasters (4347053), 2.00 The Munsters Today (5091), 2.30 Batman (6681879), 2.55 SeeQuest DSV (3403985), 3.50 Airwolf (6136879). 11.55 Live from the Lilydrome (387237). 1.00am Pyjama Party (20367). 2.30 Funny Business (36744). 3.00am Film: Beautiful but Dangerous (268305). 4.45am Music Box Profile (46922541), 5.00-5.30am Wanted Dead or Alive (79386).

S4C
As C4 except: 10.00em Cynhadledd Y Blaid Lafu (18904).
12.30 The Greatest (42576). 1.00 N8A Raw (13169).
1.30 The Avengars (5537879). 2.35 Bush Tucker Man (2453817). 5.05 Brookside (7325053). 6.30 Hollyads (459). 7.00 Newyddion Niss Sadwm (720904). 7.15 Gwahaddiad (935256). 7.45 Hel Staeon (934527). 8.15 Dilyn Ddoe: Beth Odd Da Whowl Dan? (290695). 8.45 Cutting Eige: A Is for Accelent (624898). 9.45 Screenplay (782985). 10.00 The Geby Rosim Show (5032492).
11.05 Films Altered Staeon (238561). 1.00em Dream Dath (7321281.115.125am Girks Nicht Out (676357). Ddl (1321218), 1.15-1,25am GHs Night Out (1663657).

 $T_{\frac{1}{2}}.V$

Radio

Radio 1

197 6-99 SMH: FMI) 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 12.30 Danny Baker 2.30 Jo Whiley 5.00 John Peel 7.00 Lovegroove Dance Party with Danny Rampling 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 The Radio I Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix: Tim Lennox and T'Empo

Radio 2

98-99 2482 Reb 6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday Show 1.00 Laughter USA 1.30 The News Huddines 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barraclough 5.00 Reading Music 6.00 Bryan Ferry in Concert 7.00 Legends of Light Music 7.30 Ruthe Henshall with a Star is Born 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 Sheridan Morley 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00-7.00am Mo Dutta

Radio 3

(%) 0.02 AM: FM 7.00am Record Review, With Jonathan Swam, Mozart: Plano Concerto No 19 in F. Dowland: A selection of songs and dances. Reicha: Clarinet Quintet in B flat. Sibelius: Violin Concerto.

9.00 Building a Library. A survey of the keyboard works of Francois Coupenn by Graham Sadler. 10.15 Record Release. Rautavaara: Symphony No 7. Schmittle: Historia von D Johann Fausten. McPhee:

Tabuh Tabuhan, Lutoslawski: Concerto for orchestra. 12.00 Private Passions, Michael Berkeley talks to novelist Joanna Trollope, whose musical passions range from and Faure to Elia Fitzperald singing Rodgers and Hart's Manhattan.

1.00 News; Vintage Years. David Mellor presents a portrait of Krystian Zimerman who, in winner of the Warsaw Plano Competition, including music by Choose, Brahms, Debussy and Schubert (5:6). See Choice. 3.00 The Music Machine Megamu. Tommy Pearson investigates musical torms.

4.00 BBC National Orgnestra of Wales Children's Concerts.

Choice

David Mellor earns some more Times (9.30pm R3).

5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 5.45 Music Matters, Ivan Hewett considers Debussy's songs. and looks back at the mer Broadway musicais. 6.30 Love Life. Kurt Weili's

vaudewife in two parts, to a text by Alan Jay Lerner, paints a portrait of life in America from the 1790s to 1940s. 9.30 Signs of the Times, Mark Lawson and guests discuss the social, ethical and cultural hinterland behind the issues of

hinterland behind the issues of the week. See Choice.

10.15 Intimate Letters. Janacek: String Quartet No 2.

10.45 Impressions. Binan Morton introduces a session recorded by the Austrollan group Clarian Fracture Zone during their recent visit to Europe.

12.30 Prano Man. Alun Morgan concludes his mofile of the concludes his profile of the planist and bandleader Earl

Hines. 1.00 Through the Night, With 5.55 Open University. Maths: Curve Sketching, 6.15 Modern Art; Semiotics and Visual Art.

Radio 4 192 4.44 EMEZ FM. 1954C LM 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Today. 9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breakaway. 10.00 News: Loose Ends. 11.00 News: Week in West-

minster. 11.30 From Our Own Corres-

pondent. 12.00 Money Bor. 12.25 The News Quiz

12.55 Weather.

1,00 News.

money not related to his work as an MP talking to the planist Krystian Zimerman in Vintage Years (1pm R3); Mark Lawson (left) furthers his bid for total media domination with a new topical talk show, Signs of the

1.10 Any Questions? 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News; Any Answers? 2.30 Saturday Playhouse: I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith Two sisters live in complete poverty in a ruined castle until their lives are transformed when the American owners pay

3 VS.F.
4.00 News; Leviathan.
4.30 Science Now.
5.00 America Dreaming. High
Noon in Nolan. Simon Dring
rides into Sweetwater, Texas. for a taste of life in the snake pit of American politics, 5.40 A Further View from the Fish Queue (4/4).

5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Week Ending.
6.50 Ad Lib. Circus Folk. Robert
Robinson enters the ring with a
circus owner, an animal tamer. a juggler, an acrobat and a high-wire artiste. (2/8). 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. "I've

known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins." So begins the first pub-lished and most famous of poems by the father of the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes, Saxophonist Courtney Pine, poet Fred D'Aguiar and composer Mark Anthony-Tur-nage tell Brian Morton of the contining inspiration offered by the man who spoke of rivers. 7.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Feter Grimes by Martyn Wade. 9.20 Music in Mind.

Banks 2.00-6.00am Howard 10.15 The Travellers' Souk. Imag-

ine a new continent has been discovered. Who should be responsible for it? 10.45 The Champions. 11.00 Companing Notes with Brian Kay. 11.30 Ballylenon. Comedy drama by Christopher Fitz-Simon.

12.00 News.

Radio 5

(63.1 905letz #W)

Classic FM

12.30 The Late Story: The Quest

for Lavishes Ghast by Murtel

Spark.

12.48 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.50 Bells on Sunday.

5.55-6.00am (FM) The Radio

4UK Theme.

5.55-6.00am (LW) Shipping

6.05am Dirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Weekend with Kershaw and Whittaker

11.05 Top Gear 11.35 Crime Desk 12.00 Midday Edition

2.00 The Adventures of Brisco County Junior (27898). 3.00 One West Cops II (41256), 10.00 Stand and Deliver (10409), 10.30 Revelations

SKY MOYIES

Desk 12.00 Midday Edition 12.15 Sportscall 1.05 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-0-Six 8.05 The Treatment 9.05 Clear the Air 9.35 Dailyn on Sahurday 10.35 Asian Parspective 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 Night Talk 2.00 Up Alf Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports 1000-101 98th No 6.00am Sarah Lucas, 9.00 Classic Courdown, 12,00 Classic Gardening Forum, 1.00 Alan Mann, 3.00 Nick Bailey, 6.00 Menuhin; Master Musician, 7 00 The World Orac Season Total (1994) (87072), 1000 SIS Ex-terne Justica (1993) (250430), 11.40 Pleasure in Paradise (1993), (291966), 1.05 Dangerous Heart (1993) (510164), 2.40 Tinust in Me (1994) (4942386), 4.10-6.00am My Father, the Hero (1994) (575639). 7.00 The World Opera Season. Donizetti: Don Pasquale. Franco

Yirgin Radio (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105,8MHz FM) 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 8.00 Russ & Jono's Greatest Hits 10.00 Richard Skinner 2.00 Mark Forrest (including Virgin Crunchie Album Chart) 6.00 Mitch Johnson 10.00 Robin

Corena, Graziella Scluth, Tome Krause, Vienna State Opera/Istvar Kertesz. 10.00 The Classic Quiz.

12.00 Andre Leon. 4.00 Classic Travel Guide. 5.00-6.00am

World Service

(198WE UM 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Letter 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Music Review 4.00 World News 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Fourth Estate 4.45 Write On 4.55 Pop Short 5.00 Newsdesk 5.45-6.00am On the Move

Satellite

7.00am Undun (8007898). 11.30 Ghoul-Lashed (5660430). 11.50 Trap Door (7314492). 12.00 WWF Manla (40527). 1.00 The Hit Mix (59275). Walkiki (42411), 4.00 Kung Fu, the Legend Continues (61546), 5.00 Mysterious Island (8237), 6.00 WWF Superstars (39411), 7.00 Sliders (72140), 8.00 Unsolved Mysteries (98188), 9.00 Cops I (50430), 9.30 (11527). 11.00 The Movie Show (62275). 11.30 Forever Knight (46782). 12.30 Dream On (90218). 1.00 Saturday Night Live (47386). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play (9290393).

SKT MOTIES
6.00am Easy Living (1949) (21459).
8.00 Destination Moon (1950) (62350). 10.00 Harber Valley PTA (1978) (32508). 12.00 Going Under (1990) (24701). 2.00 Caught in the Crossfire (1994) (95091). 4.00 A Child's Cry for Help (1994) (3169). 6.00 My Father, the Hero (1994) (82527). 8.00 Car 54, Where Are You? (1994) (87072). 10.00 SIS Externe Justice (1993) (250430).

MOVIE CHANNEL 6.00am The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1985) (25527). 7.00 Kid-napped (55343). 8.00 The New Adventures of Other Twist (62332), 10.00 Swallows and Amazons (1974) (23850), 12.00 Holiday on the Buses (1973) (22343), 2.00 Cloak & Dagger (1984) (93633). 4.00 The Philadelphia Experiment (1984) (4411). 6.00 Heart and Souls (1993) (80169), 8.00 Ace Venture: Pet Detective (1994) (85614), 10.00 The Client (1994) (80541343) 12.05 Getting Out (1993) (939454). 1.40 Eureka (1981) (73465676).

3.50-6.00am There Are No Children Here (1993) (21784454). SIOT MOMIES GOLD 4.00pm The Lost Continent (1968) (57071, 6.00 Muttry on the Buses (1973) (63427256), 7.40 PT 109 (1963) (34658986), 10.00 Nurs on

the Run (1990) (449362). 11.40

The Tenant (1976) (55103430). 1.45-3.30am The Osterman Weekend (1983) (891676). ar eoth 7.90am Give Us a Clue (7521850). 7.30 Going for Gold (2465879).

7.55 The Sullivans Omnibus (97417275). 10.00 Bergerac (9741/275), 10.00 Bergerac (7546169), 11.00 Classic Sport (7559633), 12.00 Neighbours Omnibus (71777275), 2.15 East-Enders Ormibus (86841091), 5.00 Till Death Us Do Part (9990546). 5.35 Get Some In! (6095256). 6.10 Sylves (4244633). 6.45 It Ain't Half

Syles (4244633), 6.45 It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (1197275), 7.20 What a Carry On! (6575169), 7.55 Bread (1172091), 8.30 Colditz (26393430), 9.35 Tento (96397985), 10.40 Danger UXB (12471904), 11.45 Film: The FBI Murders (4077324), 1.30 Public Eye (4825657), 220-3.30am Shopping at Night (58769657).

SET SPORTS 7.00am Gilletta World Sports
Special (70492). 7.30 WWF- Raw
(51985). 8.30 Racing News
(97695). 9.00 Big Time Boxing.
Lennox Lewis v Ray Mercar
(72362). 11.00 Super League: Paris
v Leeds (58966). 1.00 European
Tour Golf: Spanish Open – Live
(119695). 4.00 The Asian Golf
Show (76492). 5.00 World League
of American Football: Amsterdam v Show (70492), 5.00 work Laggue of American Football: Amsterdam v London And (5881922), 9.30 Fingside Boxing on the Road: Terry Dunstan v John 'Buster' Kee (357508), 12.00 Rugby Union: Middlesex Sevens (46096), 2.00 FA Cup Final (62980), 3.30-5.30am Ringside Boxing on the Road (31251).

STU SPORTS 2 7.00am Soccer AM - FA Cup Special 7.00am Socce AM — FA Cup Special (1801695). 11.00 Rugby Union: Middlesex Sevens — Live (2187782). 7.00 Slaft Salling (4337817). 7.30 FA Cup Final (2023492). 9.00 Ford Scorpio US PGA Golf: GTE Byron Nelson Classic — Live (9652411). 11.00-1.00am European Tour Golf: Spanish Open (4208492).

6.00am Video Box, 5.30 Home Shopping, 7.00 Video Box, 8.00 425, 9.00 Midn & Body, 9.30 Weigh to Go. 10.00 Fashion Show. 10.30 Spanish Archer. 11.00 Video Box. 12.00 Canary Wharf (Omnibus), 2.00 Mind & Body, 3.00 Sport Live. 5.00 Weigh to Go. 5.30 Fashion Show, 6.00 Video Box. 6.30 Fashion Show, 6.00 Video Box, 6.30 Spanish Archer, 7.00 425, 8.00 Nationweird, 9.00 Lunchbox Votley Ball, 9.30 Why Files, 10.00 Topless Darts, 10.30 Fashion Show, 11.00 Yopless Darts, 11.30 Stand Up Live, 12.00 Lunchbox Volley Ball, 12.30 Weird Night, 1.00 Home Shopping, 1.30 Shanish Archer, 2.00 425. 1.30 Spanish Archer, 2.00 425. 3.00 The Sex Show. 3.30 Stand Up Live. 4.00 Fate & Fortune. 4.30 Why Files. 5.00 Video Box. 5.30-6.00am

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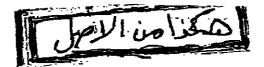
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gazette/obituaries

Prebendary Douglas Cleverley Ford

Prebendary Douglas Cleverley Ford was a man of great ability. During a ministry of nearly 60 years he served his generation well - mainly in four

The first was as a parish priest: after a curacy in the sea-side town of Bridlington in Yorkshire he became vicar of Holy Trinity, Hampstead (1942-55), then vicar of Holy Trinity with All Saints, South Kensington, near the Royal Albert Hall (1955-74). In both these churches he built up the congregations by the excellence of his preaching, to which he gave meticulous care, by his insistence on good music, and by his pastoral skill. People knew that if they went to him, especially if they were in trouble or perplexity, they would find a listening ear and an understand-ing mind. They knew that they mattered - to him and to God.

Secondly, he worked as a theological college lecturer and as the first Honorary Director of the College of Preachers (1960-73). He was a graduate of the London College of Divinity, after obtaining his degrees of at London University, and he served his college as lecturer

Regions

over many years. His students rector – a task which he comfound in him a man who could bined with his parochial work. speak with an authority derived from sound scholarship combined with pastoral experience. He had a lively mind.



The College of Preachers was born in 1960 as the result of a small conference of people concerned with the poor state of preaching in the Church of England. It had no buildings and little finance. Its courses were held in a variety of places

bined with his parochial work, to the benefit of both. Many hundreds of clergy as well as

Readers have him to thank for his care, for the lucidity of his lectures, and for the renewal of their preaching work. He did more than any other man of his generation in raising the stan-dard of preaching in the Church The third sphere in which he

excelled was as senior chaplain to the Archbishop of Canter-bury (1975-80). During my years in that office I benefited greatly from his work. In the nature of the case, that was mainly "behind the scenes". He was a man of sound judgement with whom one could share many of the problems which come to one's desk at Lambeth. He bad a shrewd assessment of character. He was loved by the staff at Lambeth, and his secretaries would do anything for him.

His fourth skill was as a writer. Over many years, he wrote prolifically, bearing in mind those to whom he had lectured. He desired to enable throughout the country. The college was fortunate in having Cleverley Ford as its first Di-

posal in making preaching what it is intended to be -intelligent,

interesting, down to earth.
The influence of his writings however went far beyond the men and women in the pulpit.
Through his books (such as Preaching Today, 1969; God's Masterpieces, 1991), through articles, through the notes he constantly wrote for the Bible. Reading Fellowship, he reached many thousands of readers.

As a man, he was quiet. Like the Servant in Isaiah, he did not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street". He did not need to. Some would say he was reserved but those who knew him best enjoyed his deliciously keen sense of humour which lightened many a difficult situation. Among the honours that came to him, he was Rural

Dean of Westminster (1965-74), Chaplain to the Queen (1973-84), and Prebendary of St Pauls. Donald Coggan Douglas William Cleverley Ford, priest: born 4 March 1914; or-dained deacon 1937, priest 1938; married 1939 Olga Bewley (died 1993); died Lingfield, Surrey 4 May 1996.

Nine-year-old Luana Patten's first scene in Walt Disney's Song of the South (1947) shows her angrily snatching a puppy away from her rough-neck older brothers who are threatening to drown it. Later she gives the dog to Johnny (10-year-old Bobby Driscoll, who was to die in 1968 after years of comeback attempts and drug abuse), a boy miserable over the break-up of his parents' marriage. Harve Foster, who directed the film's live-action sequences, declared little Luana "a natural".

Song of the South was her second film; her first had been MGM's Little Mr Jim (1946), a syrupy tale of children on an army post, but Metro didn't recognise Luana Patten's po-tential. Disney did, and fol-lowed up her Song of the South success with roles in Fan and Fancy Free and Melody Time (both 1948, both part-cartoon, part-live action revues). In So Dear to My Heart (1949), another period story with animation scenes, she was again cast as Driscoll's sympathetic play-mate. Disney intended Johnny Tremain (1957) for his TV show. but this story of the American Revolution cost so much to Luana Patten



Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

film, it was decided to release it theatrically in the United States. It was Luana's last Disney film for nine years. After teenager roles in such

minor items as Joe Dakota,

Rock, Pretty Baby (both 1957), The Wonderful Years (1958), The Young Captives and The Mu-sic Box Kid (both 1960), Patten found herself back at the studio

where she started, making

Home From the Hill, under the direction of Vicente Minnelli. MGM boosted its 1960 release with the excited words: "Home From the Hill is the answer to exhibitors' cry for New Paces, with the presentation of a trio of young people - George Peppard, George Hamilton and Luana Patten - in roles impor-tant enough to establish them as potential star power for the future!" Despite the ballyhoo, MGM did more for the two Georges than for Luana, who was given unexciting roles in Go Naked in the World (1960) and

Thunder of Drums (1961), and then forgotten. There were other films; she made the Civil War tear-jerker The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come (1961) at Fox, and the glutinous Boy Scouts tribute Follow Me, Boys! (1966) back at Dissert but I up to Patter who Disney, but Luana Patten, who had married in 1960, was content to settle, at the age of 28, for a 20-year film career.

Luana Patten, actress: born Long Beach, California 6 July 1938; married John Smith 1960 (marriage dissolved 1964); died Long



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Thought for the day faith oreason

The difficulties of religious broadcasting stem less from the presenters than from the gap between them and their audience, argues Andrew Brown.

The problem with Thought for the Day is not that it seems to turn its presenters' brains to mayonnaise but that it has the same effect on listeners. I have often tried to listen to it, but even when I succeed I just end up shouting "You smarmy git" at the bedside ra-dio. More often, one's attention just dissolves and the presenter might as well be talking about the mating habits of tuna for all the imthe great rush of opinion about the programme in the remember anything that was

ever said on it. This makes the subject a gift for columnists. There are no vulgar facts to intrude. and, since no one can remember anything ever said on the programme, it is possible to use the sacking of seven presenters as proof of any conspiracy theory you like: that the BBC is in the hands of atheists, scientologists, opus deistas or incompetents. I can't myself see any pattern in it at all, except a certain boredom with people who have been doing it for years. The Venerable George Austin is a nice man and a good joke; sacking him makes no theological statement. Father Oliver McTernan, whose opinions are opposed to George's on almost any subject conceivable, has been sacked at the same time.

It would appear that the real difficulty for the producers in that the pool of religious talent in Britain is pretty shallow. Even jour-nalists on daily newspapers have now been approached to contribute to Thought for the Day. If preaching were wanted, the general standard is pretty ghastly, and anyone who edits a column like this will know all too painfully how dreadful are most of the submissions received. Actually the problem is more subtle than that. Most priests and even theologians are educated people doing jobs they think worthwhile that bring them into contact with a huge range of human experience. They have a great deal to say and can express themseives well - so long as they are not asked to exhibit these gifts in public. The private let-ters that I get are almost without exception thoughtful, cogent and enjoyable. The stuff meant for public con-

sumption is not. Perhaps the problem is the time slot. Presumably, for model Thinker would be told stories about food.

Jesus: young, charismatic. impeccably orthodox - but above all a master of the pithy parable. In so far as the gospels record the sayings of Jesus, they are full of wonderfully broadcastable chunks, which gain hugely from not being explicated too much. But a little mathematics will show that even Jesus could not rescue Thought for the Day for very long. I do not know how pression he makes. Despite many parables there are in the Gospels, but the figure must be less than a hundred. last week, no one seems to That would last the producers less than four months. There must be a limit to what can be said in a worthwhile and memorable way in a couple of minutes.

Another difficulty is the demand for topicality. This is bad enough when there is no news to stir the imagination. It is a thousand times worse on those mercifully rare occasions when a religious response seems called for, even by the irreligious, like the Dunblane massacre. It seems to me that there are two possible religious responses to any sudden eruption of evil into the world. One is silence. reverent, attentive, and prolonged. The other was produced by a Saudi Minister of the Interior some years ago when a sudden stampede during the Haj pilgrimage crushed hundreds of pilgrims to death. "It was the will of God," he said, and closed the subject. Neither response would sit well on the Today

programme.
The second, Saudi, reaction contains the germ of quite an interesting meditation on why Christianity should be superior to Islam. An orthodox Christian must be just as committed to the view that an omnipotent God in some sense wills everything that happens. But the Christian worldview has at least the potential for tragedy: an awareness that there is something stubborn and valuable in human beings to which submission to the will of God does not come easily, and perhaps not even naturally.

Already, I hear listeners yawning. The natural form for radio is a story, which is why the best radio preachers are fundamentalists. By far the liveliest Christian radio is the most reprehensible: no one ever came away from Jimmy Swaggart bored. The only other people with as much story-telling in their culture are rabbis such as Lionel Blue - and all everyone rea Christian broadcaster, the members about him is that he

Church

appointments

Canon John Garton, Vicar, Cuddesdon and Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon, diocese of Oxford, to be Suffragan Bishop of Plymouth. diocese Exeter, succeeding the Right Rev Richard Hawkins, Suffragan Bishop of Crediton, same diocese. The Ven John Packer, Archdencon of West Cumberland, diocese of Carlisle, to be Suffragan Bishop of Warrington, diocese Liverpool.

succeeding the Right Rev Michael Henshall, who retires in October, Canon Anthony Princis, Rector of Amersham with Coleshill, dincest of Oxford, to be Suffragan Bishop of Warwick, diocese Coventy, succeeding the Right Rev Clive Handford, Bishop designate of Cyprus and the Gulf. Canon Trevor McCabe, Vicar, Manaccan with St Anthony in Meneage and St Martin-in-Men (Truro): to be Archdeacon of Com

if anyone can Canon can

to r

The drive to equality sweeps through con-temporary history like a tide. Its headwaters deepened even when Lady Thatcher, the arch-priestess of inequality of income and wealth, was in power. In a Conservative acceptance of the value of equal opportunity and treatment, backbench Tories have had to sit there whingeing about political correctness even as the Cabinet Office published guidelines for its black, disabled and gay employees as individuals deserving equal treatment. Britain has become more unequal in terms of income distribution, but also arguably more equal in terms of treatment. Black people, disabled people and people labelling themselves as pos-sessing different and distinct sexual personalities are recognised in public policies as possessors of the same civic identity as everyone else. They demand recognition of their special characteristics, measures to prevent

discrimination and promote equal treatment.

This pursuit of the right to self-determination springs from the same sources as the individu-alism that underpinned tax cuts as incentives to self-interested effort. The same philosophy of individual assertion stimulates disabled people to demand, as a right, ramps in public buildings and gay people to be openly homosexual and a corporal in the Scots Guards.

One very good reason the Thatcher government was unable to do away with the Commission on Racial Equality or the Equal Opportunities Commission was the force of the arguments against discrimination coming from the Tories' own liberal economics. One very good reason the Government has to live with the European Convention on Human Rights and accompanying (anti-British) judgments by the Strasbourg Court is the indivisibility of the economic and constitutional elements of liberal individualism. You cannot at one and the same time oppose compulsory trade union membership and say individual gay people have no rights as individuals when confronted with prejudice and discrimination. What the Conservatives have never quite figured is that their own individualism is a protean force but one that makes constant demands on government and society to recog-nise individual rights. The "right" to be individual is often meaningless unless it has the sanction of the state and its courts.

As the dominant principle ordering our socicty it makes the specific instance of whether to employ gay people in the Armed Forces an open and shut case, doesn't it? Just as angry disap-pointment is the only reaction to cases of black soldiers victimised and rejected by the army, so the exclusion from the ranks of open homosexuals looks like another example of our core principle being flouted. Radio listeners yesterday may have heard the leader of the Labour Party twisting on the contradictions of his own position on Edwina Currie's amendment to the Armed Forces Bill. (She would have overturned the official ban on avowed homosexuals serving in the forces.) Tony Blair says he opposed the ban in principle but he couldn't support overturning it because it was opposed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. So much for the power of a prime minister was the military in original decrease. ter over the military in a civilian democracy.



men have been so mealy-mouthed. What they have wanted to say, presumably, is that gay people are subversive of military good order because they are disposed to behave in certain ways. The army, like the navy and air force, are bureaucratic and hierarchic organisations. They depend sometimes - by no means always - on communal solidarity in the ranks and need to guard against a great variety of dispositions: towards stealing in barracks, drinking at moments of stress, killing except on command and so forth.

But the law does not forbid kleptomaniacs, alcoholics and homicidal maniacs from becoming soldiers. What it does do is proscribe all those behaviours which defeat the purpose of a stand-ing, professional army (and one, incidentally, having to adapt to a growing diversity of pur-poses). Whether recruits are homosemal is irrel-evant unless and until it leads them to act contrary to military purpose.

It will not do, however, to label the Joint Chiefs

of Staff homophobic and leave it there. They believe, and it is a common enough view, that many homosexuals have grown up in a sexual cul-ture in which libido is rampant and promiscuity unrestrained to such an extent that it might cause mayhem in the barracks. Such a view of homo-sexuality is not confined to the upper echelons of the officer's mess. It is worn as a badge of pride and a source of common identity by leading gay

Andrew Sullivan, the British-American writer, argues that gay men have a special calling. Their

Yet one of his problems is that the military | vocation rests on their non-participation in vocation rests on their non-participation in demanding households and it is one of creativity and radical reappraisal. Homosexuals are insurgents. Mr Sullivan's view is a variant of a position most gay men would subscribe to. To be true to our individual natures we have to present ourselves as different, they say, and be proud of it. So what if they are different in ways that do it. So what if they are different in ways that do turn out to be subversive of order and institu-

The answer is that different rules must apply to public and private space, so far as they can be separated. Privately, let difference blossom. Publicly, individual rights of belonging and participation and access may have to be matched by some suppression of "difference" in the name of efficiency of purpose. Government and institu-tions can establish wide areas in which public rules apply. Squaddies are the same to all intents and purposes, on parade, in the mess and pinned down in Gorazde. In that space equality rules. Pass the training course, muster out - sexual orientation irrelevant. Are barracks bedrooms, sleeping quarters below decks, public spaces for this purpose? Yes they are: liberal rules of entry apply but once inside institutional rules of course apply: but once inside, institutional rules of conduct hold and they may well restrict the scope for "difference".

Individualism has not run its course. Classes and groups may still, justifiably, claim discrimination and obstruction in their access to the public spaces of our society. But those spaces are not playgrounds. In them strict rules of conductions of the public spaces are not playgrounds. duct legitimately apply. In them formal equality may require us to look and behave the same.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

with the universal comprehen-sive school. Parents have been

demonstrating for decades

their commitment to good sec-

ondary education and this is not just the parents of the eight per cent who opt for independent schools but the unknown but

large number who choose where they live having estab-lished in advance that the local

state schools are of a high stan-dard. They do not wish to see

destructive levelling out by imposition of a single style of

school and many are uncon-

vinced of the evils of selection.

tion of the fact that there are different problems in differ-

ent geographical areas and that, contrary to Gillian Shep-

hard's assertions, resources

are all important. Schools

of larger budgets, enabling

smaller class sizes and higher

Computers used

as expensive toys

Sir: How refreshing it was to read Stephen Read's letter (9

May) that "Net surfing is not a computer skill". I read his let-

ter the day after I was informed

that I am to be made redundant

from my teaching post after 20

Though I am employed in an

expanding grammar school, I

am told there is insufficient

demand for my subject. I teach

Economics, but seemingly

modern-day students are not

interested in acquiring the

My school will shortly be

removing Economics from its

curriculum, with my post being

classified as financially unten-

able. Yet, less than 12 months

ago, a vast sum of money was

spent equipping the school with

the latest in computer

ing from experience through an

excellent A-level examination

will be lost. We do appear to

have confused educational

BILL STONEHAM

Maidstone, Kent

knowledge associated with such

years' service.

technology.

ity provider's censor.

quality teachers.

There must be a recogni-

Seeking a radical approach to lifelong learning

right to call for a radical review ronment while learning skills of educational support for and exercising responsibility. young people. Claus Moser's priorities ("A blueprint for schools under Labour", 8 May)

Second, massively expand local opportunities for adults to return to education once the are right for a sound initial education system. But the radicalism should include a really sharp look at where the constant prolongation of initial education is taking us.

Keeping a bigger and bigger proportion of young people in education risks becoming something of a political virility symbol. It does little to make the distribution of life chances fairer, and imposes huge strains on institutions which are often

side educational institutions. A properly structured and staffed national environmental service would be one appropriate initiative, enabling young people to make a genuine con-

motivation to learn is there. Generously resourced FE colleges would be in the forefront here. Anyone who has interviewed or taught adult returners knows how powerful their motivation is, once they have decided that the time is right. Stuffing more and more

young people behind desks may help the unemployment fig-ures in the short term. If there is no genuine pay-off for them, it will not succeed for more not well equipped to bear them. than a small minority. A radiThe resources would be betcal approach to lifelong learneration is that pupils can now ter spent in two directions. ing means shifting the balance First, provide real opportunities between initial schooling and for young people - especially continuing education, not just excel in rather than conventeenage males - to learn out-blowing the balloon up bigger tional groups of sciences, lan-- and hoping it won't go pop. TOM SCHULLER

Director Centre for Continuing Education

Sir: Gordon Brown (7 May) is tribution to improving the envi- Sir: As a parent, 1 was interested and encouraged to read Sir Claus Moser's sensible article in which he advocates improvements in four areas as อตั้งrities.

I was disappointed, however, in some of his views about secondary education. I doubt that pupils, recently relieved of the burden of pursuing large num-bers of subjects to examination standard for GCSE, would welcome his advocacy of "replac-ing A-levels with a truly broad and flexible examination".

A-levels represent their first opportunity to focus on a small number of areas in greater depth and one of the advances choose a mixture of subjects they enjoy and think they can guages or arts. At the same time, small and diverse modules can be taken without the restriction of passing exams.

Dr Mark Wansbrough-I was also disturbed by Sir Claus's continuing infatuation London SE19

Hizbollah and the UN camp

a baby survived the Holocaust. I am appalled at the massacre

itself being targeted. Surely such actions give a different interpretation to Israel's attack on the area than the UN is pro-

It grieves me that the world

Prophetic calls for ritual sacrifice

there is plenty of "theological justification" for Muslims to sacrifice sheep at the time of the haj, whether in Mecca or

Not only are there numerous Prophetic directives concerning the excellence of sacrifice at this time, but there are also considerably more Koranic references to the subject than the single one he mentions, in particular those in Chapters 5 (The Table), 22 (The Pilgrimage) and 48 (The Conquest). And given that Mecca has always been a place of sacrifice and that the distribution of the meat is a secondary consideration, it is not a "logical step" to send money for food aid to poor countries instead. Rather, most people's haj would be

European interest rates

incomplete in a legal sense if

Sir: People may be baffled by the European single currency but the debate on this important issue is not enhanced by the naive comments of David Vigar, Director of Communications, of The European Movement (Letters, 9 May).

These machines are used He suggests that few people largely as expensive toys with are aware that British interest the students trying to access the rates would be lower if we were latest Oasis Web page or trying to locate which X-rated sites part of a European currency. Mr Vigar can't make this assertion. have been missed by the facil-True. Germany has lower interest rates than Britain. However, An opportunity to create the European interest rate (from flexibility of thought, confi-1999 onwards) is not going to be dence and an interest in learngoverned by German interest

> of countries who join. Furthermore, Mr Vigar should be aware it is real interest rates that matter. Germany has lower rates because it has a lower inflation rate, and an economy facing far more problems. In real or inflationadjusted terms, long-term interest rates in the UK are broadly the same as Germany. Real short-term rates are higher in the UK, but that's only because the authorities in this country don't want (or need) them any

> lower, whereas the Germans

are desperately driving their

rates down to combat recession

rates alone, but by the average

and rising unemployment. GRAHAM TURNER Chief Economist Tokai Bank Europe London, EC2

Sir: I am not a politician, I am did not seem so disturbed by an ordinary British Jew who as the 60 deaths of innocent Jews on Israeli buses when there was no possible misinterpreta-

I am appaned at the UN camp at Qana one, in the world's enthusiasm to condemn Israel yet again, that asked why the UN was allowing Hizbollah to operate so close to their camp and even to seek refuge within the camp to seek refuge within the camp "meli fire.

Is an appaned on the world's enthusiasm to condemn Israel yet again, that they couldn't ten wans for they did not wear uniforms or carry signs. How can Israel be expected to differentiate refugees from Hizbollah fighters from the air, when the UN annot on the ground? In fact it looks as though the UN was actually harbouring those who seek to destroy

AGNES SPIER

with more problem children Sir: Contrary to the assertion of there was not some sacrifice on should be helped by allocation P J Stewart (Letters, 3 May), their behalf actually in the envitheir behalf actually in the environs of Mecca, although according to the well-attested Madinan school of Islamic law, the preferred way of doing haj does not actually require a pil-

grim to sacrifice at all. Finally, I am amazed at D W Evans' attitude to the prophet Abraham and the "barbarous" Old Testament (Letters, 3 May). Have people no respect for the great men of God whose practices such festivals commemorate? And have people completely forgotten the literal meaning of the word "sacrifice" and all that it entails, both physically and spiritually, in favour of a merely metaphorical usage?

Dr Yasın Dutton Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies University of Edinburgh

Blake's love of England

Sir: The recent correspondence on the subject of William Blake's "Jerusalem" demonstrates how easy it is to sneer. The poem was part of a larger work, and it is not Blake's fault that it has subse-

quently been taken out of context, set to music and used in all manner of situations which he could have no knowledge of. It is a "what if?" poem, in which he speculates upon what might be the imaginative and spiritual significance for him if were true that Jesus Christ,

whom he loved, had actually visited England, which he also loved - and where he everywhere saw acts of exploitation and cruelty. VICTOR WATSON

Cambridge

Sir: I am impressed by the ignorance, perhaps naivety, of colleagues and others who have written to you about the hymn "Jerusalem". Once I too was perplexed by its steady reappearance at country weddings. At last, one afternoon, the

scales fell from my eyes. The groom in front of me sang the words with fervour and mounting excitement until, at the line "Bring me my arrows of desire" he could not resist making what were no doubt in his eyes appropriate gestures. But that was in the diocese of Hereford.

Herefordians take things as they find them! This "folk" appreciation of

the hymn may account for at least one kind of clerical distaste for it.

The Rev C J R ARMSTRONG

DAVID **Feeling** cheated

elations concerning the visit a deux to St Tropez by Tory MP Rupert Allason and a winsome violinist seemed to have involved remarkably little effort on the part of the crusading journalists who penned them. Strangely, Mr Allason did very little to escape detection.

unfolded thus: Mr Aliason went what you will. straight from losing a malicious falsehood case against a signs included your husband sitnewspaper in the High Court, changed into Rich Author's on Bathsheba bathing, or (if Casuals (stonewashed jeans, jumper draped over shoulders). drove to the airport, flung his arms around the fair fiddler, sat next to her on a plane, took a taxi to a "hotel lovenest", went on the beach (where she took ber top off), read a spy novel or two and then came home with

Such behaviour required his intrepid stalkers to sort of follow him about, take lots of unobstructed pictures (including the obligatory empty bed) with an ordinary lens, and occupy a neighbouring lounger on the beach while pretending to read a Jackie Collins. Nice work if you can get it, but hardly James Bond.

The day after the story appeared, Allason's insouciance was explained when he revealed that actually he had split up with the wife a couple of years earlier, at which the newspaper which had been fol-lowing him tried, rather bizarrely, to suggest that in fact they were still a devoted and happily married couple ("New Twist To Allason Affair").

What, of course, gave Allason away as not really being a love cheat was the entire absence of deception. Had he travelled alone wearing dark glasses and a frock, stayed in a single room at a seedy pension, disappeared each evening by Lambretta and been seen in cafes playing chess with septuagenarian male amputees then we would have known that something was up.

That's why all the books and magazines that offer advice either on detecting adultery, or (in these wicked times) on how to commit it, lay the stress on

I thought it was all a bit too normality-discovering deviance from it, or maintaining the veneer of it. "Is your partner suddenly available at different or unusual times, and unavailable at times when previously she was with you?" "Does he avoid cer-tain places, like particular restauwho penned them. Strangely, Mr
Allason did very little to escape
letection.

Events seem to have odour signature." Make of that

In Biblical times, tell-tale ting on the palace roof spying you were unlucky enough to be called Uriah the Hittite and Bathsheba was your other half) finding yourself suddenly sent to the bit of a battle where the most smiting was going on.

Today, it's easier. Strange numbers on your itemised phone bill, odd charges on your wife's credit card statements ("The Honeymoon suite: 1 night. £200"), breathlessness when he answers his mobile - all these are dead giveaways. In 1996, there are more ways of catching out a

cheating partner than ever. Yet, according to the surveys it's going on more than ever: 60 per cent of men and 40 per cent of women will stray, apparently, from which you can draw two possible conclusions. First, folk could just be lying to researchers about all this adultery to cheer themselves up; or, second, somehow they're getting away with it, becoming extraordinarily adept at cover-

ing their tracks. One male adulterer, offering help to fellow would-be cheats. suggests always keeping a beer in the tridge, so that you can rush in and take a swig, thus disguising an evening spent in a low dive with a floozie. He also recommends - when returning home from an assignation in the wee hours - plonking a glass of water in front of the bedside clock, making it harder for your sleepy partner to see just how late you are.

So there you are, then - the new adultery test. Is there always a beer in your fridge? Where exactly does he put that tumbler when he comes up to bed? And at the moment of rapture, does he call you Ahmed? It could be a sign.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

Labour put up taxes like donkeys have fleas - John Major He has got to stop trying to balance everything - John Townend, Tory Euro-sceptic, on Mr Major's approach to the beef ban

Anybody who believes we are going to modernise the welfare state without making tough choices is wrong. That is not what new Labour is about - Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor

I and my colleagues spent nearly £250,000 of taxpayers' money between 1991 and 1994 on observing newts - Prof Herbert Mac-Gregor, head of zoology, Leicester University

What the loyalists do best is kill Catholics, and that's the threat hanging over people at this time - Gerry Adams. Sinn Fein president We are net contributors to the EU, costing billions yearly. Any hand-outs to Britain are foreigners' decisions about how to spend some of our own money - Lord Wyatt of Weeford

He loses interest. He doesn't sit and watch it the whole time. He's not like us - Phyllis Bell of the Oregon Coast Aquarium, Portland. on a whale who has a 32-inch TV to keep him mentally stimulated "I have been sentenced to six weeks in a pub, it could be work?" Nigel Nelson, political editor of the 'People', who set up office in the Red Lion after being banned from Parliament for 20 days for Pwliheli, Gwynedd | allegedly disclosing security information



The Spitfire: nostalgic icon linked to Europe today But. 1) The Spittire was not

Sir: "Let's have something knocking, but not too much it is an icon of course - laced with a bit of nostalgia, some homespun psychobabble and. of course, to make it relevant a bit of linkage with our attitude to Europe today

Thus, I assume, ran the remit from Tuesday morning's editorial conference before the publication of Jonathan Glancey's article "Brilliant but flawed: the Spitfire is a mirror in which we see our national character" (8 May),

Don't bother about checking the facts, though it was all

"cobbled together on a shoestring" but an ingeneous adartation to military tauction started in 1953, of the Supermatine record-breaking float planes (of which Mr Glance) makes no menuora. 21 The Japanese Zero

(incidentally, the illustration showed a Nakajima 97 "Kate" tornedo-bomber) was nothing to do with "American Prototypes" but a development of the Russian LA 5's captured in Manchuria and which had given the Japanese Air Force a bad time during the Khalkin

Mustang did not start until 1940, seven years later than the Spittire. In fact the earlier versions, type A36, were dangerously underpowered and this was not cured until the Rolls-Royce Merlin subcontracted to Packard replaced

the American Allison engine. As for German planes being "technologically superior", Mr Glaucey should perhaps have checked this out with General Galland who asked Goering if he could not have just one squadron of Spittires.

ALAN CLARK Saltwood, Kent

Sir. I write as a retired teacher with 14 years experience in an inner London primary school. The Government's idea that duced his campaign against poor teaching is responsible

Storrington.

for low standards in reading (report, 8 May) is too simplistic. Owing to a dearth of nursditions and poor parenting extra deaths each year, a large will enjoy the joke. some children, aged five, arrive at school with a luck of motivation and poor concentration.

I deplore the Government's lack of funding to the Reading Recovery Scheme, which enabled these children to have the individual attention they need. DOROTHY E AYISI

Learning to read Bull bar deaths

Ghoi battles.

Sir: The Road Minister, Steven Norris, was reported as "fighting back tears' as he introspeeding drivers (8 May). Was this the same Steven Norris who a few weeks ago blocked an all-party Bill to ban bull bars. months." ery schools, bad housing con- These bull bars cause many

proportion of them children. D J WEARS Halstead, Essex

Sir: This afternoon I bought a

Uckfield.

birthday card for my grand-daughter, including a badge with the figure 2 on it. Unwrapping the card I found a warning inside which read: Not suitable for children under 36

DOROTHY EVANS

Sir: Stephen Read (Letters, 9 Birthday badge May) ignores what is obvious to

At least Hannah's parents

East Sussex

parents who watch as their chil-

dren play computer games well-selected entertainment software encourages precisely the literacy he is seeking: "the ability to analyse situations, flexibility of thought, confidence in intuition and an interest in learning from experience." We have moved on from mere shoot-em-up games.

ROLAND MILES Redhill, Surrey

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number.

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Letters may be edited for length and clarify. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters

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Joanna

From actress to national institution

The naming of an Oxford fellowship after her is an apt tribute to the absolutely fabulous British heart-throb, says Liz Hunt

there are two blondes who hold a special place in the hearts of thirtysomething British men. One is Alexandra Bastedo, the perfectly-coiffed, perfectly enig-matic star of the late Sixties television series The Champions. She played a woman for whom the word allure was invented, and whose superhuman powers had been conferred upon her by Tibetan monks.

The other was Joanna Lumley, the high-kicking, sexy yet pragmatic Purdey of The New Avengers. A woman whose unique "wash and go" hairstyle launched a thousand look-a-likes in the mid-1970s, and whose special research. cial powers were due entirely, one felt, to hours spent on the lacrosse field.

Exposure during their formative years to these televisual ideals of womanhood was crucial to the sexual development of a generation of men. "You have no idea," says a fan, dreamy-eyed with nostalgia. "They were your first encounter with truly glamorous older women. Alexandra pierced your sub-conscious in a way you didn't understand at the time because you were too young. Then came Joanna, just when you were beginning to understand it all ..."

Perhaps that is why Joanna, 50, who this week had a fellowship christened after her at Oxford University, is the blonde who now occupies pride of place in the thirtysome-thing male psyche. They were just discov-ering sex when they discovered Purdey, with ful. Joanna Lumley has grown older with her fans, sharing her successes and failures, and her opinions with them in a very public way. And then, at an age when some actresses are hitting the bottle in despair, she has blossomed as a major comic talent and created a national institution in Patsy, the chain-smoking, coke-sniffing permanently sozzled super-bitch, the mother-of-all par-odies, in Absolutely Fabulous. Patsy is up there in the sit-com hall of fame along with Basil Fawity, Reginald Perrin, and Victor

They are, of course, all men. Successful funny women are rare, and Lumley's persona of sex-bomb-with-a-sense-of-humour has been her ace. From ambitious young pho-tographic model in the Sixties to fledgling actress - she was Ken Barlow's upper-class girlfriend for a time in Coronation Street - via Bond girl status in On Her Majesty's Secret Service, the Avengers, and the dreadful Sapphire and Steel, she played it straight. But the humour was there, lurking beneath the glam surface, as if at any moment she would crack up, with the laughter directed at herself more than any other individual.

It is not only men who regard her with affection. She is popular with women, too, and perhaps it is women who have the greater debt to La Lumley. Over the years her sharp intelligence, her independence – she was a frowned-upon single mother in

She came top of a celebrity panel asked to sit the Common Entrance exam, scoring just 2 per cent less than AJP Taylor in the history paper

her pudding-basin haircut and stockings and the Sixties - her talent and glamour suspenders.

In truth, there was never any contest. Alexandra Bastedo, also 50, was always a little bit too exotic, and certainly too humourless for real appreciation from British men. 'She was a woman to be put on a pedestal. Joanna you always knew would get the

joke," says another long-term fan. Ms Bastedo, it is true, has fostered a lower profile in the years since her smallscreen stardom, and this has not been help-

her outspoken commitment to good causes, and, above all, her triumph over the menopausal years, have shown that it is possible to be all things to all men without alienating them, scaring them off or becom-

Undoubtedly, she has some advantages. "I met her at a Speciator lunch about nine years ago, when she was first entering intellectual life. She was dazzlingly beautiful. One was just awe-struck: a-b-sol-ute-ly awe-struck,"



Joanna Lumley: she shows it is possible to be all things to all men Graham Whitby

says one jaded connoisseur of both intellect and beauty. But was she interesting, what did she have to say? "Some women are beautiful, most are not. She was," is his final word

She is that and more, summed up by some

seminal Lumley milestones. She came top of a panel of celebrities asked to sit the public schools Common Entrance exam by a newspaper, scoring just 2 per cent less than AJP Taylor in the history paper, then there was a sponsored strip before a bemused Terry Wogan on Children in Need in the Eighties; she was a columnist on the Times, and a member of the Booker Prize panel in 1984. And since 1980 she has tried hard to honour a commitment she made to do at least one straight stage-play every year, including Hedda Gabler, The Cherry Orchard, and most recently Somerset Maugham's The

Joanna Lumley's dedication to animal and environmental causes is renowned. In 1994 she emerged in tears from a film on the export of live animals for slaughter, and earlier this year she made headlines again when she took a piglet to Parliament as a member of a delegation from Compassion in World Farming. When the oil tanker the Sea Empress foundered at Milford Haven in February, Ms Lumley sent a personal letter of protest to the Prime Minister.

It actions such as these that have prompted the Friends Provident Financial Group to sponsor a research fellowship at Green College, Oxford, in Joanna Lumley's name. The company specialises in ethical investments, and the fellowship is for postgraduate research into environmental or wildlife issues, particularly in Africa. In PR terms it is an excellent move – the combi-nation of Patsy and Oxford has proved irresistible to journalists. But there is a serious side; Ms Lumley has served on the Reference Committee of Friends Provident for six years, and the fellowship marks her stepping

With Patsy and Ab Fab effectively laid to autumn - the Green College fellowship would be a fitting epitaph to an extraordinary career. Ms Lumley says she would be happy for it to end, as she wants to spend time with her husband, the opera conductor Stephen Barlow. "I am quite looking forward to not being up there, and if necessary I shall construct my own dismounting process," she has said. But she has also said that "I can't stop taking an interest in the next thing ... Roll on the next thing.

Let's face it, no one looks good in lime-green

Tamsin Blanchard knows why we wear unflattering colours

pens, they have transformed pens, they have transformed quite sane women and men into looking like the contents of a packet of Opal Fruits. The sweets might be mouthwatering, but bright orange and limegreen clothes were made to make your eyes water and put your teeth on edge. And yet, these are the colours of the summer of '96. If you haven't summer of '96. If you haven't already bought anything in what fashion commentators describe as shades of citrus, chances are, by the end of the summer, you will have succumbed - either out of a temp-tation to look fashionable and modern, or desperation that there is nothing else available.

The last time the British high street saw so much vivid colour was in the early Eighties when there was a fad for day-glo yel-

low and fluorescent pink. Soon after that shocking outburst - no wonder people started wearing sunglasses after dark - the shops were swamped with seri-ous black, which

was relieved by neutral shades of beige towards the end of the decade. Fashion moves in cycles, and the backlash bland colours has kicked in. But don't be fooled. While you may think that the

buyers and designers of the highstreet stores are working with you in mind, there are very few people of pasty, northern European complexions who can get away

with wearing colours that are best left in the fruit bowl. So how did this acid explosion happen? And who allowed it to happen? You cannot blame the innocent consumer (these between the sexes) for presuming that they should be wearing lime-green and orange when the shops are full of it. The responsibility lies with fashion forecasting agencies, such as Design Intelligence in London.

pull information together that

The tyranny of the fashion designer has struck again. With a flick of their marker published for fabric manufacturers who set the dye works in motion. In turn, the international designers make up the fabrics and show their designs to the buyers and fashion press a season before they will be on sale to the fashion élite. After that, the high-street chains join the merry-go-round. For the past few months, fashion pages have been singing the praises of citrus fruit tones and the retailers have been rubbing their hands, waiting for the tills to

ring.
So it was two years ago that
Design Intelligence helped
determine that orange and lime would be the colours for this summer. Whether or not the colour will suit anyone does not appear to have come into consideration. While Mr Tomlin agrees that citrus colours do not

suit many people, he thinks that is a The clothes-buying public is credited with little intelligence and the montality of a flock of sheep: once one person wears it. confidence will grow and everyone Colour therapists

are worried, however. They do not of the fashion and textile industries. The spread of limegreen could have a serious affect on the well-being of According to one

therapist, orange is bad for the aura, giving off negativity and fear. And while grass-green and sage-green are life enhancing, lime-green is thoroughly unhealthy for those who wear it and those who have to look

The only way to buck the everyone else a favour, and don't buy it. There are alternatives - how about good oldfashioned black, white, and navy, or lilac or aqua blue? All are widely available, cowering on the rails behind the dazzle Kevan Tomlin, head of of lime and orange. But be reswomenswear, is one of a team olute and prepare for next sumwho, twice a year, meets with mer. The cogs are already in the International Colour Board motion and the fruit bowl has and the British Colour Board to been raided once again. The colour to run from in the sumwill decide the colour palette mer of 1997? Grapefruit.

America paralyses Lebanon's anger

To stifle UN outrage after the Qana massacre threatens a wounded people, says Anthony Parsons

Whatever the outcome of the pre-sent row at the United Nations in New York about the Israeli bombing of Qana, the Middle East peace process is unlikely to be affected. Its future will depend on forces outside the UN: the result of forthcoming Israeli elections and progress or oth-erwise in Palestinian/Israeli and Syrian/Israeli negotiations.
Today's crisis is about the Lebanon,

an intrinsically unaggressive country, which has suffered far heavier civilian casualties as a consequence of the Arab Israeli dispute than any other state in the region. I confess that I have only the slimmest expectation that the United States, with its veto power and identification with Israel, will permit the Security Council to take positive action which could be helpful to the people of Lebanon; indeed, the reverse is now on the cards if Unifil is forced by Israeli pressure to withdraw from Lebanon.

For years, UN Security Council discussion of the Arab-Israeli dispute has tended toward one of two results either a resolution so innocuous as to be meaningless, or an American reto of anything critical of Israel. The American and Israeli aversion to Secunty Council involvement has converged, the public rationale since 1991 being that with the parties now in direct negotiation, outside interference must be avoided.

On the whole, this policy has carried the day. With the end of the Cold War, the relegation of Russia to spectator status and Saddam Hussein's exposure of the Arab need for American power, Arab governments have largely abandoned recourse to the Council. The Americans have in fact only had to cast

one veto since 1990.
In the "bad old days" before the New World Order, Lebanese governmenta frequently brought to the Country of the Country cil isbeli attacks on or invasion of their territory, running into 10 American vetoes between 1982 and 1988.



The present Lebanese government has

Even in the face of the ferocity of the Israeli retaliation against Hizbollah last month, the Arab world held its hand for several days while 10 per cent of the population of Lebanon were driven from their homes, ports were closed, electricity installations near Beirut were bombed, the coast road subjected to shelling and civilian casualties mounted. It was only after more than 100 civilians were killed by Israeli artillery fire in the UN base at Qana that the Security Council was mobilised. It is a measure of current American power that an Arab draft resolution condemning Israel and calling for withdrawal from the "security zone" secured only four votes (five less than the minimum of nine out of 15 required for adoption, provided a veto is not exercised) and the eventual

resolution, adopted unanimously on 18 April, made no mention of Israel and avoided any suggestion of blame for what had happened at Qana and

elsewhere.
This almost inaudible international bleat may have been preferable at the time to a bad-tempered debate culminating in an American veto, but it cannot have appeased the outrage felt by Lebanese of all sectarian and religious persuasion as Israeli artillery, aircraft and gunboats continued to

A General Assembly debate pro-vided an opportunity for Arab delegations, including the president of Lebanon, to let off steam but, when the ceasefire came into effect on 26 April, it looked as though the curtain had fallen on the insignificant play in New York.

The report on Qana by the UN

General Franklin van Kappen and its public circulation to Security Council members by the Secretary General has brought the curtain back up with a

jerk, revealing a major diplomatic row. The report is meticulously drafted, giving full space to the Israeli point of view. However, van Kappen's finding is that "while the possibility cannot be ruled out completely, it is unlikely that the shelling of the United Nations compound was the result of gross technical and/or procedural errors". In his covering note, the Secretary General, while setting out the Israeli view - operational mistakes and technical failures compounded by chance - effectively endorses van

According to reports, the Israelis have dismissed the report as "absurd"and are talking of the necessity for Unifil to be withdrawn. The

Kappen's findings.

Americans are said to have exploded with rage at the Secretary General. Arab delegates are talking of a resoharab delegates are talking of a resolution condemning Israel and demanding compensation. The rest of the Council, including Britain, seem to be keeping their heads below the parapet, although the British ambassador was reported as saying that the report must be taken seriously.

The Americans will try hard to bury the report, with the Council at most "taking note" of it. It remains to be seen whether they can prevail on the Arabs to comply. If not, and there is a resolution critical of Israel, it will be vetoed if, which is not certain, it secures nine votes; much will depend on the four Western members, including Britain, which will come under

strong, conflicting pressures.

American readiness to paralyse the Security Council on Israel's behalf has long been taken for granted in New York, but still excites resentment: Washington is unlikely to be the flavour of the month either in the UN or the Middle East as a result of this crisis. Conversely, the fact that the Sec-retary General and his staff have been prepared to stand up and be counted public will do the UN as an institution a power of good in a large number of states.

It will be tragic if the ordinary people of south Lebanon have to suffer further as a consequence of this diplomatic storm. Without Israeli co-operation, Unifil could not remain in the south and the Americans can easily veto the renewal of its mandate. Unifil has never been able to carry out its full functions, but, for 18 years, it has provided some protection for local inhabitants. If Unifil leaves, they will be in greater danger than before from both sides. This consideration should surely weigh with the policy makers.

Sur Anthony Parsons was UK Permanent Representative to the United

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MOTOR INSURANCE

The final bill for Names

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BEFORE IMPROVEMENT

£5.9bn

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BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098

Lloyd's close to final deal with names

Business Editor

The Lloyd's insurance market vesterday appeared to be well on the way to clinching a deal with its aggrieved members af-ter confirming the details of a £1.2bn improvement in its settlement offer.

Although some members said the new proposals did not go far enough, leaders of the main action groups lighting Lloyd's made clear they thought it would probably be enough to persuade members to vote in favour during the summer. But many still plan to press for more help for the hardest hit.

ward. "By making these changes we believe some of the less palatable areas have been made David Rowland, chairman of more acceptable to members Lloyd's, said the settlement was the only practicable route for-situation greatly improved."

Michael Deeny, chairman of the largest action group, Gooda Walker, and of the lingating names' committee and a memher of Lloyd's ruling council

AFTER IMPROVEMENT

£2.0bn

£3.1bn

£1.9bn

nificantly increases the chance of it succeeding."

Members (ALM), the biggest names representative body with 9,000 members, welcomed the offer, but also called for pensions for elderly names who have been ruined by Lloyd's. John Mays, chairman of the Merrett names association, said My view is that the cost is com-

are going up and it has a much better chance of flying. However, Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Association Working Party, said: "This is nothing like

enough. We do not regard this

ing down and the contributions

cide on the offer but these are substantial improvements and there can be no doubt that it signals. Alan Porter, chairman of the

Devonshire Names' Action Group, said the £300m increase The Association of Lloyd's in the settlement fund was "meagre and disappointing" and he called for further aid for ruined names. He also warned that "Lloyd's troubles over fraud and breaking of regulations in the US may cause the collapse of the settlement."

In California, a court cleared the way for renewed legal actions by the state against the market, which are expected to have the backing of the US Securities and separate Tennessee decision Lloyd's reached an agreement that allows it to continue nego-

The market's offer to names has been raised by £300m to £3.1bn as a result of extra con-tributions of £100m from brokers, an agreement by auditors to pay more than £100m, an increase in the proceeds from selling and mortgaging Lloyds' property and other contributions from central resources.

As revealed earlier this week, Lloyd's has also reduced the cost to names of setting up the Equitas reinsurance vehicle that is to take over their old liabilities from £1.9bn to £1bn.

In a letter from Mr Rowland, the chairman, Lloyd's said there would be more help for the "honourables" - names on lossmaking syndicates who have paid up - and extra assistance for names who cannot pay at all.

An important part of the set-tlement is a reduction in the cap set on names' future liability for further losses. In the earlier proposal, 9,000 names were to be capped at £100,000 maximum. Now all but 2,000 of these will be capped at lower levels.

Those who remain members

are to have their cap reduced to zero. Those who have paid but left will see it reduced to £50,000. And for those who cannot pay and who have very large losses, there will also be a

duction in the £100,000 cap. Lloyd's said the number of names who will receive cash refunds as a result of the settle-ment has doubled from 5,000 to 10,000. These are people who have paid their debts in full. Comment, page 19

Sweetly does it at British Energy

MICHAEL HARRISON

The Government has attempted to sweeten the controversial sale of British Energy by writing down the value of its nuclear power stations by £3bn and halving the value of the environmental liabilities it will take into the private sector.

The moves are designed to help ease what promises to be a more problematic and controversial sell-off than even the railtrack flotation.

British Energy's fixed assets were shown as £8.2bn in its 1995 accounts. But last night, in rely to written par-liamentary question, the Pres-ident of the Board of Trade Ian Lang disclosed these had been written down to £5bn.

At the same time the Government has adopted a higger discount rate for calculating the nuclear liabilities Bright Energy will carry with it for decommissioning stations and

reprocessing spent fuel.
This has resulted in the liabilities being shown as £3.7bn compared with a previous fig-

ure of £7.6bn.
The sale of British Energy, which owns five advanced gas cooled reactors in England and Wales, two AGRs in Scotland and the Sizewell B pressurised water reactor, is expected to raise about £2.6bn.

This is the same as Sizewell B cost to build and is about half the value of its fixed assets. In his written answer Mr Lang said the write-down of the assets was a technical matter. "No cash changes hands as

a result of such a write-down. It will have no effect on the cash generated by the stations not will it reduce the proceeds of sale (the company is expected to be valued by investors on the basis of its div-

idends and cash flow.)
On this basis, the broking arm of BZW, which is acting as the Government's adviser on the sale, believes British Energy will be worth £2.6bn. But this valuation assumes nuclear plants. Even fairly minor reductions in their output could have marked impact on their revenue earning capacity and hence British En-

Golden hello lures oil man to British Gas

MICHAEL HARRISON

British Gas yesterday courted fresh controversy by bringing in a new chief executive to run its transportation arm, TransCo, with the lure of a £100,000 "golden hello". David Varney, a senior exec-

utive with the oil company Shell, will take up the post in June with a salary of £385,000 in addition to his signing-on fee. The appointment pushes Philip Rogerson, who had been widely tipped for the TransCo job, upstairs into the role of deputy chairman and increased

future with British Gas. British Gas also announced that Roy Gardner, brought in from GEC Marconi 18 months ago, will beome chief executive of British Gas Energy, its trading and supply arm, with im-

speculation about his long-term

mediate effect. The appointments virtually complete the shake-up at the top of British Gas under chairman Richard Giordano in readiness for the planned demerger of TransCo and British Gas Energy in spring 1997.

A spokeswoman defended Varney, saving it was compensation for reduced share options and pension entitlements as a result of leaving Shell.

His salary, she added, was the market rate required to attract a senior Shell executive. "There are plenty of chief executives of smaller companies with less demanding jobs who are paid more," she added.

Mr Varney was previouly di-rector of Shell International Petroleum Company, responsible for managing its European downstream oil business. From 1991 to 1995 he was managing director of Shell UK's downstream oil business and during the mid 1980s ran a number of Shell operating companies in the Far East and Australasia.

His appointment to TransCo comes just three days before the gas industry regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, unveils tough new price controls on the business, expected to trim at least £300m off British Gas's revenues and place further strain on its ability to maintain dividends.

Despite Mr Varney's apcontinue to lead TransCo's ne gotations with Ofgas over the new pricing formula. He will also be the board director responsible for carrying through the demerger project.

British Gas maintained that tioned what long-term role Mr



even after the demerger was complete he would have an important task to perform handling regulatory matters.

Rogerson could perform. "He plete," said one source. hasn't got the job everyone expected him to get and although he may not be too distraught at that it is difficult to see what he a salary of £320,000 but has not received a pay rise for getting companies. does once demerger is com-

Mr Gardner, who received a £200,000 golden hello when he joined in November 1994, is on renegotiate the £40bn take-or-

the chief executive's job at

renegotiate the £40bn take-or- of the gas, creating huge popay contracts with North Sea oil tential liabilities.

Increased competition and British Gas Energy.
His main task there will be to gas without customers for much falling prices have left British

Comment, page 19 ergy's value.

conor policion mder i

NM Rothschild teams up with ABN Amro

JOHN EISENHAMMER

NM Rothschild yesterday merged its equity capital mar-kets businesses worldwide with ABN Amro, the Dutch bank, in a move it hopes will dispel doubts about the British merchant bank's ability to remain independent. The joint venture will give

Rothschild the international equity distribution it has lacked ever since the end of its special rela-tionship with the broker Smith New Court, was were bought last year by Merrill Lynch.

ABN Amro, which owns Hoare Govett in London, has long sought to acquire greater advisory strength in the City. It tried to buy Barings early last year, but was beaten by its Dutch bancassurance rival, ING.

After a lengthy pause following the spectacular consolidation in City investment banking last year, when several British houses fell to bighalance-sheet foreign predators, vesterday's deal retrains the spotlight on to the remaining independents such as Lazards,

Schroders and Cazenove.

The joint venture, which will be run as a single business on a global basis, will comprise about 50 people dedicated to equity capital markets. It excludes UK domestic business. The merged entity will draw on Hoare Govett's sales, trading and research, but its corporate broking side will be entirely left out.

"This is an elegant and sensible solution between two mature groups," said Anthony Alt, Rothschild's chief executive. "It is totally consistent with maintaining our independence while leveraging off our skills in origination. The deal came as Rothschild

has been going through a rocky patch, suffering three high level departures in a matter of weeks. The latest to leave was John Bishop, a managing director at Rothschilds and its most senior executive in charge of trading. Speculation continues that more senior defections are impending, pointing to unease within the bank at a perceived lack of direction.

Stating that he expected the announcement to stem the crit-

icism, Mr Alt took a defiant stance against the recent leavers and other rumoured departees. "Good luck to them, they can go and be buried in some large investment bank." Equity capital markets is the vital stone in the arch linking a bank's corporate advisory busi-

ness and the equity sales and research side. It is responsible for the pricing, bookbuilding and distribution of share offerings. "The international corporate finance, advisory and sector skills of Rothschild complement the global research, sales

and trading capabilities of ABN Amro," said Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman. Bernie Myers, a Rothschild managing director, said the deal gives the bank stronger international distribution than it had with Smith New Court. "This is not a replacement, it is a major, positive, quantum

leap, he said.
About 20 people from Rothschild will move to ABN Amro's office at Broadgate, in the City, where ABN Amro Rothschild will be headquartered.

Comment, page 19

Railtrack sale looks set for top price

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor**

Railtrack looks likely to be sold for a price at the top of the government's £1.75bn to £1.95bn range, after heavy interest by

City institutions. Investors do not appear to have been deterred by the re-newed bad publicity about the company in recent days, including advice from Lloyds Bank and NatWest to their private clients that they do not regard Railtrack as a suitable long-term investment.

Institutions are believed to have made indicative offers that comfortably oversubscribe

their share of the privatisation, and substantial numbers of applications have already been received from private investors, well ahead of the close next Wednesday at noon.

The indications are that the government will have no difficulty selling the shares at the top of the 350p to 390p range announced 10 days ago for international investing institutions. Private investors pay 10p a share less.

The prices on offer from professional investors will not be confirmed until next Friday afternoon when the international tender offer closes.

The present stage is a book-

the global co-ordinator, how much they expect to buy and at

what price. The institutions are not committed to their offers until the close and are theoretically entitled to withdraw altogether. But the level of interest at this stage is usually regarded as useful pointer to the outcome. The offers have come from a wide spread of institutions in the UK and overseas.

The level of private applicamum of 30 per cent of the shares to 40 per cent or more.

However, it emerged that Lloyds Bank had sent a letter to in-house investment managers warning that shares of-fered in the flotation may not be appropriate for longer term or more cautious private in-vestors. "We have said that Railtrack may not be the most attempt to spread the risk appropriate investment for around more widely than the 20 these type of investors," a spokeswoman confirmed. Nat-West has already issued a sim-

tions also looks on track for an oversubscription of the mini-Brian Wilson, Labour's

new business on several routes

However, a letter to the four

through the Channel Tunnel.

customers from Bert Blissett, the

general manager of RiD Con-

nectrail makes it clear that the

move has been instigated as a re-

sult of privatisation. The letter

begins: "The intention of HM

building exercise during which now looks highly likely that the flotation's credibility had been institutions tell SBC Warburg, retail proportion will be raised dented by Lloyds' warning. Meanwhile,

bankers, BZW, a subsidiary of Barclays, have had difficulty syndicating a £2.35bn loan from a core syndicate to a wider group of banks. The loan is underwritten and Railtrack will receive the money

whatever happens. But BZW's banks so far involved has proved problematic. Railtrack sources dismissed

claims that the banks were going cold on the company beearmarked for retail buyers. It spokesman on rail, said the a Labour government would do.

Four freight terminals closed in sell-off move

but RfD argues that it was no

spokesman for the company

said that the four terminals - at

Ely, Gidea Park, Barking and

longer to serve these depois. A

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

privatisation.

Four rail freight terminals have been closed by Rail-freight Distribution, BR's main remaining rail freight compa-ny, in a bid to rationalise the company in preparation for

volume wagons mainly for

Prior (c) Charge (c) % Charge

31 6.4

456

cies "among all grades" of staff. Four customers of the Connectrail service, which uses high

tice that they will no longer be served by trains. The decision to cut some services is part of a widespread restructuring in the company which will result in redundan-

transport to and from ports, have been given a month's no-

according to a letter leaked to The move by Railfreight ap-pears to fly in the face of

Nasterday Day's che You Acc

-0.08 18.32

383.50

Oil Breant \$ 18.97

Blackburn - were each used for only one or two wagons per week and this was not economic. He denied that the move had anything to do with privatisation: We carry out these reviews CURRENCIES

Government is to privatise RfD in the current financial year; a report commissioned from Mercer Management Consulting in this context is still being considered by the Government. Meanwhile, we are required to restructure the business with the objective of making it viable in the long-term."

Government policy to get more every six months." He added that freight off roads and on to rail RfD was currently attracting

Mr Blissett says that he may reconsider but only if there were five loaded wagons per trip. The letter says that recent

performance has been "pourer than had been expected", culminating in losses of £60m for 1995/6. These are similar to the losses in 1994/5 and arise partly because of its investment in services through the Channel Tunnel which are only now starting to bear fruit. However, it is still severely lossmaking and most industry observers doubt whether it can be sold during the

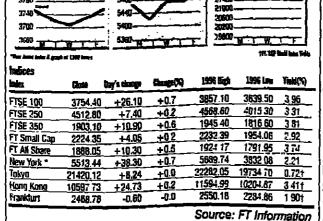
current financial year. One of the customers affected by the decision said he would be negotiating with RfD: "I am furious that they have done this without prior warning or discussion with us. It's a terribly offbanded way to work."

Earlier this week, it was announced that a management buy-out team was the preferred bidder for Preightliner, BR's other remaining freight company.

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investment: Living with a Labour government p21 Fear of Finance: The Railtrack 63



STOCK MARKETS

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7.8 Laird Group

INTEREST RATES

Wat Wat I Yestorian Canage Year Ago \$ (London) 1.5226 -0.06c 1.5724 £ (London) 0.6568 -0.27 0.6359 £ (N York) ± 0.6568 -0.22 0.6375 \$ (N York)# 1.5225 +0.50c 1.5685 DM (London) 1.5249 +0.81at 1.4433 OM (London) 2.3217 +1.14pt 2.2695 + (London) 160.401 +Y0.859 136.335 Y (London) 105.350 + Y0.605 86.70 84.7 +0.3 8<u>4.7</u> \$ Index OTHER INDICATORS

96.4 +0.2 89.7 below Latest fir Ago Mexifies 151.5+2.7pc 147.5 16 May 107.4+2.00c 105.3 23 May sale timetable



With the August

proving to the

deadline looming for

Department of Trade

Lloyd's is solvent and

can continue trading.

and Industry that

there is not much

time left'

No alternative to accepting the improved offer It is hard to believe that the first Lloyd's of-fer to its aggrieved names three years ago

was a miserable £900m. In the last week alone, the market has managed to magic out of the hat the same amount simply by reducing the funding requirements of the Equitas reinsurance vehicle from £1.9bn to £1bn, a saving of £900m. But then all negotiations involve brinkmanship. Lloyd's must have seen the possibility much earlier this year of reducing the cost of Equitas to names, but held the card back to the last minute, when it would have the maximum psychological effect.

The names' action groups, for their part, have also played it pretty rough, and close to the brink at times. So have the auditors. who grudgingly agreed in the late stages of the negotiations to pay £100m or more into the settlement - a lot less than they ought to contribute, given their central role, but progress all the same.

As ever with Lloyd's, nothing is simple.

The settlement offer itself has been raised by only £300m to £3.1bn. The other £900m is technically not part of Lloyd's offer to the names but a reduction in what they have to shell out to Equitas. But it comes to the same thing in the end - the overall package is £1.2bn better than it was when the outline settlement was published in February. Having delivered such a surprise with the

£900m, Lloyd's risks encouraging the most militant members to press on with their campaign in the hope that there is another chunk of money up another baggy sleeve someable. With the August deadline looming for proving to the Department of Trade and Industry that the market is solvent and can continue trading, there is not much time left.

The main action groups have been drawn deeply into these final rounds of negotiations. Some of their leaders are too closely identified now with the offer to do anything but back it. There are still hundreds of bankrupt names in such deep trouble that the settle-ment cannot solve their problems. But the chances of majority agreement have not looked better since this whole sorry business started. There is no sensible alternative to accepting it, even if the argument is bound to continue for a couple of months over detail.

Gas reshuffle solves nothing

The deck chairs have been shuffled yet again on board the good ship British Gas again as the rubber dinghy is being lowered in readiness to cut adrift the unwanted ballast of those pesky take-or-pay contracts. Judging from the latest batch of board ap-pointments, the black spot is being reserved for Philip Rogerson, the executive director responsible for overseeing the demerger of British Gas.

Not that you would necessarily guess that from yesterday's British Gas statement

where. However, this time Lloyd's is proba- which is another masterful example of by serious when it says there is no more avail- Economy 7 as applied to the English lan- of British Gas's biggest creditors. That will Schroders, which are painstakingly trying to guage. Mr Rogerson, has, we are told, been appointed executive deputy chairman of British Gas and of its proposed successor companies - TransCo International, the bit that will run its pipelines, and British Gas Energy, the bit that will slug it out with the rest of the world in the deregulated domes-

tic market. Quite what he will spend his time doing is less obvious since the two demerged companies will have their own chief executives (both outsiders) in the shape of Roy Gard-ner who came from GEC Marconi and David Varney, who has been brought in from

Shell to run TransCo.

Another thing you would not gather from the statement because British Gas omitted to mention it, is that the man from Shell has been winched on board with a £100,000 signing on fee to soften the blow of losing some share option and pension entitlements. Perhaps we should not begrude him his golden hello. TransCo is not going to be a bed of roses, with the gas regulator Clare Spottis-woode in close pursuit. But at least it should be capable of making decent profits.

That is more than can be said for British Gas Energy which will barely make a bean, nor pay a dividend for the foreseeable future while its market is slowly eaten away by nimbler competitors.

Given his background Mr Varney ought to know a thing or two about take-or-pay | slapped down the sceptics, but also in one

not be much help, however, as the £40bn of contracts have been lumped into British Gas Energy in an attempt to ring fence TransCo from this thumping great liability. Yesterday's rejigging of the top brass will do nothing to bring a solution to this particular

headache any nearer and there is every possibility that Mr Varney's former employers will insist on some more of TransCo's assets being shifted into British Gas Energy to cover off the eventual bill.

Rothschild deal looks clever

M Rothschild needed this deal. Three senior defections in a matter of weeks, with more rumoured to be in the offing, had punctured the image of a house that prided itself on being somewhere people do not leave. A steady stream of deals for NMR's corporate financiers papered over some of the cracks, but there was no mistaking the growing unease at the lack of strategic direction, or the pointed questioning about whether the bank really had a healthy, independent future.

By joining up the vital equity capital mar-kets business with the Dutch banking giant. ABN Amro, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of NMR, hopes not only to have Schroders, which are painstakingly trying to build their own distribution.

This looks like a clever deal. NM Rothschild is a good corporate finance business, strong on privatisation work, but precious little else. The asset management side is a disaster, and venture capital indifferent. The ability of corporate finance to carry the rest is increasingly hampered in the tough competition for the big international mandates by lack of distribution – made that much worse since the loss of Smith New Court to Merrill Lynch. Nat West offered a joint venture, but Evelyn de Rothschild judged the clearer too threatening for his independent ambitions. ABN Amro is a neat alternative, By leaving out Hoare Govett and the UK domestic side, Rothschild gets even more

Court, but at arms length. ABN Amro, which is desperate to bolster its corporate finance presence in the City, has probably settled for less than it hoped for, but it will do for now. Who knows what

international clout than with Smith New

it might lead to?

What does this deal hold for the remaining independent City houses? Cazenove, which seems suffered an attack of Alzheimers about its talks with Barings in 1994 (talks, what talks?), must be thinking hard about its future. The jury is still very much out on Schroders' efforts to build its own distribution. While business is thriving, these ques-tions can be put off. But not forever.

Economic policies under fire from right

DIANE COYLE Economics Editor

The Government came under a dual attack on its economic policies from leading right-wing economists yesterday.

Professor Tim Congdon, a member of the Treasury's panel of "wise persons" and former adviser to Baroness Thatcher, said the much-vounted "flexibility" of the labour market had weakened Britain's economic performance.

In a separate report, the Ingritime labour forceparticipation."
The Instable of Directors stitute of Directors said the public finances were in a worse launched a separate attack in a position now than before the tax increases announced in 1993. It added that the Government's future public borrowing predictions were based on over-optimistic forecasts for growth in the economy.

Professor Congdon, in his latest monthly economic review for Lombard Street Research, argues that the shift from full-time jobs to part-time working during the past decade and a half meant the Government had been unable to translate huge improvements in productivity in manufacturing industry into a general strengthening in eco-

nomic performance. With growth in output per hour four-times as high as it was in the 1970s and amongst the highest in the industrialised world, the productivity miracle in manufacturing has been genuine. But, according to Profesdancies of skilled and able

Full-time jobs in highly productive industries have been replaced by part-time jobs in far

The next government must thoroughly review tax and social security measures that had favoured the switch to parttime over full-time work, he writes. "The central weakness of the Conservatives' supply side policies has been the failure to maintain high levels of full-

paper criticising the Government's record on cutting public sector borrowing. "Between the November 1993 and 1995 budgets, the underlying deterioration in the prospects for public finances was larger than the amount of extra revenue raised in the two tax-increasing budgets of 1993," it concludes.

Since future projections for the PSBR are based on unrealistic assumptions about how fast the economy will grow, the Government needs to scale back its spending plans even further, author Stephen Davies

In November 1993, the Government predicted that its current expenditure and revenues would be in balance next financial year. In last November's Budget this had slipped to a shortfall equivalent to I per cent of GDP - despite forecasting an sor Congdon the gains were achieved only by heavy redungation of GDP growth.

Clampdown on media groups who bend rules



Struggle for control: Virginia Bottomley's Bill will circumvent a loophole for broadcasters

sponse to shareholder concerns

Pirc says that following re-

quests from pension fund

chents last autumn it held a se-

ries of meetings with Shell

about its role in Nigeria. It is

particularly concerned about

the company's policy towards the Ogoniland region of south-

ern Nigeria where many of its oil activities are based.

weeks to respond but so far we

"The company has had six

has been adequate to date."

MATHEW HORSMAN

The Government is to clamp down on the controversial "warehousing" schemes used by media companies to circumvent media ownership rules, it was

confirmed yesterday.
In proposed legislation to be tabled next week as part of the Broadcasting Bill, the Secretary of State for Heritage, Virginia Bottomley, will give independent regulators greater flexibility in determining and defining "control" of broadcast licences as well as broader powers to end warehousing and similar rule-

dodging schemes. Warehousing - the placing of shares in deadlocked companies over which no one is deemed to have control - was most recently used by Granada, the media and leisure company, to take a larg-er stake in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees than technically allowed under the current ownership limits. Such schemes have been crit-

icised by the Independent Television Commission, the commercial TV watchdog, which lobbied for greater disreviewing the proposed changes, and had no comment.

The Broadcasting Bill is aimed at deregulating the broadcasting sector, allowing

Shell is also planning to tight-

en rules governing shareholder

entry to annual meeting to de-

ter environmental and human

rights activists gaining publicity.

At the moment protesters can gain access by owning just one to-ken share. Shell wants only se-

rious long-term investors to

attend and speak at meetings.

One suggestion is that individu-

als should be shareholders for at

least a year. A minimum

£1,000 investment is another pro-posal being Shell touted by Shell.

companies to expand further. Under current rules, companies can own two ITV licences outright, but only up to 20 per cent of a third and up to 5 per cent of any additional franchises.

Earlier this year, DNH confirmed the numerical two-licence limit would be replaced by a total TV audience limit of 15 per cent. Yesterday, it provided further details of how the limits would be calculated.

Once the Bill comes into effect, probably this autumn, minority shareholdings in ITV companies of between 15 per cent and the level deemed to constitute control (probably 49.9 per cent) would attract onehalf the audience share of the relevant licence. Anything higher would attract 100 per cent of the audience share.

In the case of other broadcast companies, for instance Channel 5, the audience attribution for minority shareholdings would kick in once the stake reached 20 per cent. The changes mean that com-

panies will be able to hold an unlimited number of ITV stakes up to 15 per cent. Thereafter, additional franchise would count toward the overall 15 per cent ceiling, up to the point deemed by the ITC to consti-

Several other companies

Pire, whose pension fund and

investment management clients

control assets worth £100bn,

gained publicity last year when

it tabled a special resolution at

the annual general meeting of

British Gas calling for the way

executive pay and perks are set

to overhauled. Mr MacDougall

said yesterday that utilities would

be under fire again this year.

have already been hit by envi-

ronmental activists as the agm

season enters into full swing.

Lucas bid expected in next few days

MICHAEL HARRISON

Lucas Industries, the car components and aerospace group, could be on the end of a hostile £2.5bn bid within days, market makers were speculating last night.

Takeover rumours have gathered pace following the group's confirmation that it is in merger talks with the US brakes and diesel engine group Varity.

Dealers believe these talks will fail and that a rival bid will be tabled. Suitor being men-tioned yesterday include General Motors, the world's biggest car company, Tl, Siemens of Germany, and fellow UK automotive componet groups GKN and T&N. Shares in Lucas rose 11p yes-

terday to 234p valuing the group at £1.95bn. However, dealers were speculating that pitched at 260p-275p a share putting a price tag of £2.3bn to £2.4bn on the company. Lucas has been vulnerable to

a bid since its chief executive George Simpson confirmed two months ago that he is leaving to take over from Lord Weinstock at GEC.

Mr Simpson is on record as believing that the car components industry will be dominated by a handful of large players and that to survive Lucas would have to grow

much bigger. It considered forging an alliance with the French component supplier Valeo by buying Carlo de Benedetti's 30 per cent stake in the husiness but rejected the idea in favour of talks with Varity, which owns the diesel engine manufacturer Perkins an is the US's biggest brake manufacturer. Market report, page 20

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Gilts suffering from double-whammy effect

Pirc, the corporate governance

consultancy, is urging its clients to vote against Shell's report and

accounts at the annual general

meeting next Wednesday in

protest at the oil company's ac-

"We have serious reservations

about Shell's policies in relation

to the environment and human

rights, "said Alan MacDougall, Pirc's joint managing director. "We do not consider that its re-

tivities in Nigeria.

not been kind to the gilts market and there is not much chance that matters will improve with the arrival of spring, The redemption yield on the 15-year benchmark stock has climbed more than half a point since January and is now stuck above 8 per cent. Gilts have been hit by a double-whammy - political risk and inflation fears.

Gilts are caught between the different state of the economic cycle to the east and west of the UK. The prospect of the Bundesbank cutting short-term interest rates in the next few weeks means other European markets have decoupled from the nervous US Treasury market since the early part of the year. One worry troubling investors is the risk that the UK economy is more likely to pick-up, like the US, rather than stay in the doldrums 10.50 with Germany and France.

Extremely favourable US figures for inflation at the factory gate last month reassured Treasury bond investors yesterday that the Fed would stay its hand. But there are other clear signals that the American economy is recovering strongly from its pause, with an ever-tighter labour market and upward pressure on wages. Further pointers to economic strength are likely to send bond yields up again. They are already at their highest for a year.

The vidence on the UK economy is more mixed, but signals such as rapid monetary growth, a strengthening

The first few months of this year have consumer sector and rising asset higher than expected a year ago be- a point to gilt yields before the cent of the company, is confident that prices have been interpreted in some quarters as early inflation warnings. Even if that is a bit alarmist, growing evidence that the economy is starting to grow a bit faster mean the odds of further base rate cuts have receded. Traders in the futures market are currently betting on there being no fall from the current level of 6 per cent, with base rates rising again by the

On ton of this, the run-up to the eneral election does not look like being a happy period for the gilts market, for a mixture of reasons. One risk is a pre-election surge in public sector borrowing. Gilts issuance is already

cause government tax revenues have been disappointingly low. On past form it is sensible to expect the Government to ease up on control of the public finances even more as election day approaches. However, an additional concern is

how much more a Labour government might want to borrow. The party's plans have so far not been spelt out in detail, although the shadow chan-cellor Gordon Brown has pledged to be tough on the public finances and retain some sort of inflation target. A new report from investment bank ical risk should not add more than half

<u>Inflation fears drive bond yields higher</u> ---- UK 15 year bond yield ——US treasury 30 year bond yield - Germany 10 year bond yield

have received two letters which programmes in the Ogoni area.

Pirc calls for Shell shareholder action

have effectively said nothing,"

The issue came to a head in

November when long-time

Shell critic Ken Saro-Wiwa was

hanged along with eight other

activists by the Nigerian authorities as Commonwealth

leaders assembled for a summit

Shell, which pumps about half

of Nigeria's oil, this week gave

commitments to clean up spills

and resume community action

in Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr MacDougall continued.

However, it cautions that the market has not yet taken this into account. So with both politics and economics conspiring against gilts, investors are in for a further bumpy ride.

Barbados hotels hit stormy spell

St James Beach Hotels, owner of four upmarket properties in Barbados, has proved a disappointing vehicle for investors hoping to cash in on the boom in the hotels market. The shares have fallen almost in a straight line since hitting a peak of 151p in August last year and now sit at an all-time low after falling 14p in the wake of yesterday's profits warning. At 100p they are 20p below the level at which they were floated two years ago.
St James has revealed that cost over-

tightening of what has proved an insufficiently conservative depreciation policy will savage profits for last year. Instead of the widely expected figure of £3m for the 12 months to last March. the group is now promising "not less than £1.4m", well down even on the £1.92m recorded in 1994-95.

Executive chairman Ray Homey, who with his wife controls around 58 per the brave should hold on.

they now have the problems under control, aided by a new finance director and much stricter financial controls. He points out that the underlying picture remains strong. While profits slumped last year, sales were well ahead of budget - outside estimates suggest they could be more than 50 per cent ahead of last year's £10.4m - and occupancy rates are above 90 per cent.

The hope is that St James has anticipated the worst in these figures, but doubts inevitably remain. The group has been spending aggressively to ex-pand and renovate its hotels, but clearly it could not cope with rate of growth and costs have run wild. Of last year's profits shortfall, only £300,000 related to stock and depreciation.

In retrospect, the recent extensive management changes should have rung alarm bells with investors. Added to that, Mr Horney's other business dealings have not always met with huge success. Earlier this year, his Regent Corporation house-building group reruns, a stock write-down and the vealed that it had uncovered "significant errors" in its accounts alongside losses and a boardroom clear-out.

That said, St James controls a fifth of the luxury hotel market in Barbados, an area in which Forte and Lourho are interested, and claims asset backing of 132p a share. It is also planning to raise last year's dividend a fifth to 4.8p. The risks remain, but

IN BRIEF

 Sterling ended at its highest level against the Deutschmark for more than a year, rising by more than a pfennig to DM2.3224 yesterday. Hopes of further cuts in German interest rates to boost the economy meant the mark was generally weaker. Figures yesterday showed consumer prices in western Germany rose only 0.1 per cent last month and 1.2 per cent in the year to mid-April. The pan-German increase was 0.1 per cent in April, making the yearon-year rise 1.5 per cent. Inflation is not expected to climb above 2 per cent this year.

 "Core" US producer prices – excluding food and energy – rose by a lower-than-expected 0.1 per cent last month. The headline rate of factory-gate inflation edged up to 2.5 per cent. Although the figures were more favourable than expected, analysts think the Federal Reserve will leave US interest rates unchanged for some time – helping the dollar strengthen against the German curren-

• Rodime's US attorneys said there is no prospect of a recent adverse legal decision in the US courts being overturned. Last September the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington DC issued a ruling that resulted in all of Rodime's claims against a company called Quantum being judged invalid. Rodime went to the US Supreme Court in an unrelated case which has now been settled. Rodine's lawyers said that decision means that there in now no prospect of the earlier Quantum verdict being overturned.

 Holders of bonds issued by Barings have issued writs against 17 parties claiming compensation of £100m. The proceedings have been brought against the issuing company Barings Pic (now under administration), its board of directors and advisors, Hoare Govett, BZW and Cazenove. The writs were issued in the High Court on behalf of the Barings 9.25 per cent Perpetual Noteholders Action Group on the grounds that the listing particulars were misleading or failed to contain certain information as a result of which the bondholders have suffered loss.

 Westminster Health Care, the UK's biggest private musing home group, parted company yesterday with its controversial founding shareholder when the Tenet Healthcare Corporation of the US placed its 42 per cent stake in an £80m deal. The 26.9 million shares were sold in a single block to the company's joint brokers Cazenove and Collins Stewart who sold them on to institutional investors at 298p a share. The sale will have netted a profit of more than £60m for Tenet, which has been dogged by controversy since being heavily fined in the US for billing fraud in 1993. Westminster denied that there had been any pressure from them to sell, although it admitted that it had removed "an easy stick to beat us with"

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DATA BANK

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence

CAN COMMY

Lucas Industries takes off on takeover rumours

FT-SE 100 3754.4+26.1 FT-SE 250 4512.8 +7.4 components group, motored 11p to 234p as rumours of a FT-SE 350 takeover bid swirled around 1903.1+10.9 the stock market.

SEAQ VOLUME mill action would occur early 607.2m shares, next week with GM, the US gi-32,539 bargains ant, favourite to strike. Gilts Index Lucas shares have been heavily traded this week, a 92.40 +0.36

> action is suspected. But yesterday's speculation prompted the inevitable question following a Friday run is it a ramp?

> classic indication that corporate

So often, as the market winds down for the weekend break, stories of an imminent bid go the rounds. Often the company concerned is already in the bid frame.

United Biscuits is one which

In heavy trading Lucas Industries, the aerospace and car their old crumbly form as trading continued to deteriorate and the rumoured bidder

failed to emerge. Earlier this week it became According to the rumour known Lucas was engaged in talks with a US group, Varity.
Object was to establish a trading pact. The negotiations could stretch to a full merger although Varity is too small to mount a bid for Lucas; so the if it could resolve its aspestos

UK group would have to make In the market, however, the talks were seen as an indication Lucas realises it is too small to prosper on the world stage and needs a partner.

GKN eased 4p to 958p and TI 6p to 546p. T&N was little changed at 175p. Lucas, with a 260p rumoured bid price, has climbed from 172p in January. The French Valeo group

could be interested although it is unlikely to be in a position to move until the ownership of

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter of the year

Lucas and could regard a pointment of its demerger

takeover as a logical bolt on, the UK groups, GKN and TI Group, are in the frame. T&N, Electricities dimmed on the latest Board of Trade U-turn but the English generators, National Power and PowerGen, difficulties, could also be a partgained 2p - to 535p and 544p respectively.

Hambros, the merchant bank, shaded 2p to 237p although UBS lifted its takeover price from 271p to 303p.
After its breathtaking arrival The rest of the market was Vanguard Medica held at 628p in buoyant form with the FT-SE 100 index going some way towards nullifying the poor

asthma setback.

Zeneca's upbeat trading statement lifted the shares 11p to 1.377p but Chiroscience, where a £40.3m cash raising ex-

ercise is underway, fell 15p to FirstBus, on its Glasgow buy, advanced 6p to 174p and talks continued. Eurotunnel, seemingly on French investment support, managed a op gain, to 82.5p.

Superstores continued to rally following the J Sainsbury performance and oils were helped by the Shell display although British Petroleum bucked the trend, off 6p at

Thillow Oil was unchanged at 90.5p in busy trading on talk of a British Gas strike and Bakyrchik gained 17p to 550p

in 30p of its level before the 628p on director selling. Video-Logic gained another op to 94p on its super-fast video chips

Raphael Zoru Hemsley, the stockbroker, jumped 11p to 49p following figures and Oriel, the insurance broker,

rose 13p to 155p as takeover Cantors, the Sheffield-based furniture retailer, put on 5p to 160p; it is in talks which could

lead to a substantial acquisition. Rodime fell 0.75p to 2.5p. The former computer group is now a litigation play; it has suspended one US action to concentrate on its claim against

US group Seagate.
Ask Central, a small restaurant chain, improved 12p to 120p where it sells at more than 60 times last year's earnings. The company is controlled by

Texpect developments at Emerald Energy, the USMtraded group. It is thought to be seeking to reduce its reliance on the US and negotiating to buy exploration and production facilities in Colombia. A cash raising exercise is likely to accompany any deals. The company came to the market 30 months ago with Peter Winton, former exploration chief at Tricentrol, as managing director. Until now it has

TAKING STOCK

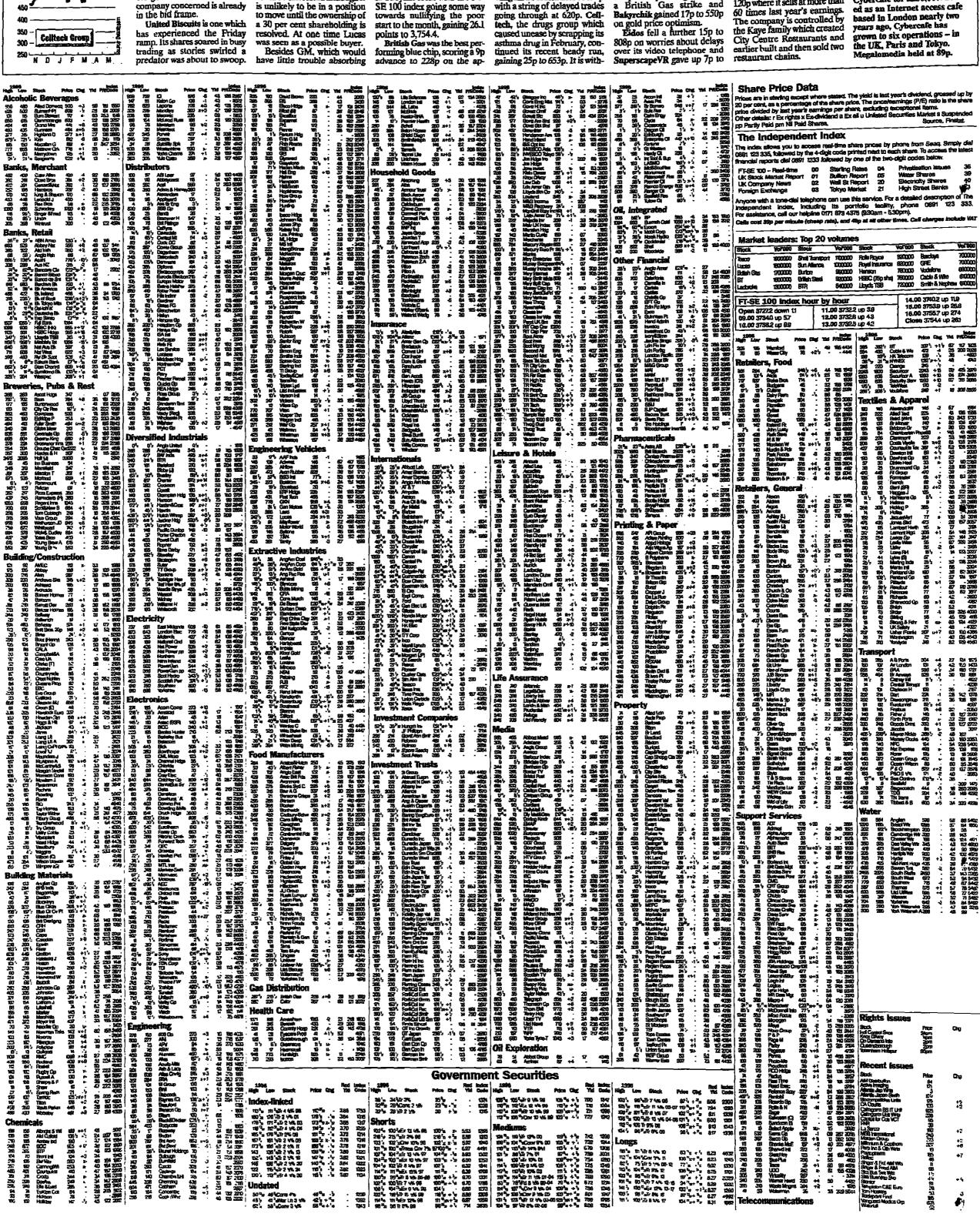
Megalomedia, headed by Maurice Saatchi, has bought nearly 7 per cent of unquoted Cybercafe for £250,000. Started as an Internet access cafe based in London nearly two years ago, Cybercafe has

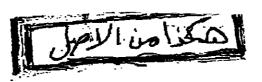
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sport

Wigan tipped for Sevens success

As a vision of how rugby - nev-er mind the union and league suffixes - could be played. Wigan's demolition of Bath on Wednesday was so awe-inspiringly complete that they come to Twickenham today as favourites to win the Middlesex Sevens.

We should not forget that, apart from the practices against Orrell with which they have prepared for the return against Bath under union rules in a fortnight, Wigan have no rugby union experience whatsoever. Certainly they have had far less practice than that of the Malaysians, this year's second

Yet there can be no doubting their ability to make this instant switch to the abbreviated version of the other code. For one thing, there will be less of the rucking and mauling that will bog them down against Bath, and, for another, these guys are superb footballers.

That said, it will be not be a comfortable experience for the great and good of rugby here present if Wigan do as antici-

Certainly Brian Ashton, the

Rayer tops

list of

omissions

match tour of Australia.

Wales, was tipped to be included

in the party following a series

of good performances for his

chib in recent weeks, after re-

covering from breaking a leg in

and the director of rugby, Ter-

ry Cobner, have named a squad

containing only one specialist

full-back: Justin Thomas, of

Lianelli. John, the half-back

partner to Neil Jenkins at Sardis

Road, also misses out on the

trip. Cardiff's Andrew Moore is

preferred as the deputy to

the other outside-half.

str), A Th

WALES TOUR PARTY: Backs: J Tho Evans (both (lanell), L Davies (Nes Davies (Llanell), G Thomas (Bridge

Jenična (Pontypridd), R Howley (Bridgend W Proctor (Llanelli), S Hill (Cardiff), J Fia

The coach Kevin Bowring

two places in October 1994.

Steve Bale backs Wigan to continue their crusade for rugby union glory

has no doubts. "It will be a fluke if anyone beats them," he said. Until Bath's 82-o annihilation under league rules at Maine Road, the fluke would have been for Wigan to win today. No

"I don't care which set of players they put on the pitch," Ashton said. "They could all be forwards, but they'll still be quick, strong and more skilful than most rugby union sides."

Bath had already withdrawn from the Middlesex Sevens by the time they played Wigan, pleading "a game too far" as the excuse. That is despite the fact their stamina will still run to the second game against Wigan, with its attendant financial re-

For Wigan, however, the chance to continue their mis-sionary work at the very heart of uniondom is too good to miss. "If we get some ball, we might do some damage," Shaun ee at the c Edwards, captain and one-time cup final.

England Schools union inernational, said.

In fact, getting the ball will be less of a problem in sevens than than it will be in 15-a-side. The Wigan squad contains

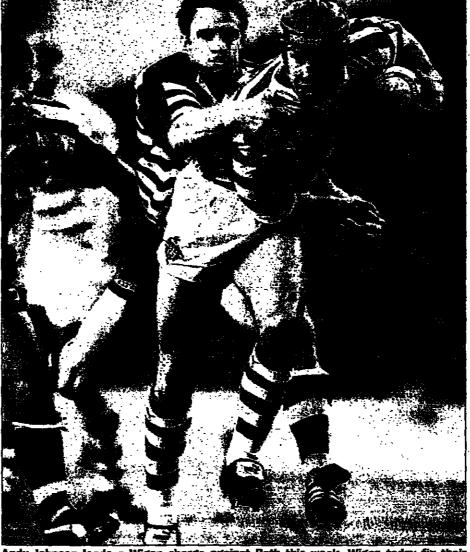
four former union men. One, Martin Offiah, is well remembered by union aficionados for his Middlesex Sevens feats for Rosslyn Park, Another, Scott Quinnell, is about to return to union with Richmond, who may be sorry to be Wigan's first opponents at 12.40pm.

The former All Black Va'aiga Tuigamala - whose brother Lua is in today's Orrell squad - and the Samoan 1995 World Cup flanker, Shem Tatupu, complete the quartet. Their collective presence has

helped ensure a record capac-ity crowd of 61,000, generating

more than £400,000 for chari-Among those trying to stop Wigan will be Lawrence Dai-laglio of Wasps, the Rugby Football Union's player of the season, and Leicester's Neil Back, another England flanker but viewed less kindly by authority after pushing the refer-

ce at the end of last Saturday's



Andy Johnson leads a Wigan charge against Bath this week. Wigan today fix their attentions on the Middlesex Sevens rugby union title

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

Pride of Border clubs take to the field

BILL LEITH

Many a wry smile has been pro-The Cardiff full-back Mike voked by the passion and en-Rayer and the Pontypridd thusiasm with which Border scrum-haif. Paul John, are the clubs have embraced the first surprise omissions from a Scottish Rugby Union Ten-30-strong Wales squad who nents' 1556 Scottish rugby cup, leave on 23 May for an eightdue to climax today with a final at Murrayfield between Hawick Rayer, capped 21 times by

and Watsonians. For example, since Hawick defeated Melrose in the semifinal a fortnight ago, the club's

secretary, John Thorburn, has had duties which have includ-Gloucester part with chief executive

Mike Coley, has left the Courage League One club after less than a year in the job. He is a victim of the club's de-

cision to restructure, although Gloucester issued a statement yesterday that said he had offered to resign, and announced they had reached an agreement over compensation.

Coley's departure follows Gloucester's decision to set up a new company to run the club and look for sponsorship to pay their players. "The general committee have endorsed the club's working parties' recom-

hats, rearranging the annual club dinner and liaising with officials of the town's annual month-long Common Riding Festival, the start of which clashes with today's 50-mile pilgrimage to Edinburgh. Underpinning the hype is a song specially written to em-

ery of 2,500 commemorative

phasise the fact that the Hawick team is exclusively home-grown. The town's most £15,000 to today's winners. famous son, the television commentator Bill McLaren, has where folk who said we held

displays, organising a fleet of buses including one for the town brass band, taking deliv-trywide after Scotland's 1990 trywide after Scotland's 1990 Grand Slam. All a bit ironic in view of the fact that it has taken Scotland

24 years to emulate England and Wales in organising an official cup - largely because of the intransigence of Borderers, who have been wary of any threat to their traditional endof-season, seven-a-side circuit. However, the SRU finally came up with a competition worth

Thorburn admits: "I can see

things back are coming from, but Border teams always maintain that, when a cup was introduced, they would be early

"That has made us more determined, and our players are well aware that Hawick were the first winners of the Border League in 1902 as well as the first winners of the National League in 1974, so cup success would complete a treble."

Watsonians, whose membership was, until recently, restricted to former pupils of an Edinburgh public school, are

What we are up against."

What we are up against."

Hawder C Turnbull, G Sharp, A Stanger, C Mursey, K Suddon, S Welsh, K Reid, B MacDonnell, J Hay, A Johnstone, A Inrary, I Blott, J Graham, B Remeks, G Hamis, Wathouthuss D Lee, F Handerson, S Hassings, A Garry, J Kert, D Hodge, J Weston, T Smith, G Micheley, J Waddel, S Gmies, C Mather, G Hannel, C Brown, J Sinclair.

Reference J Flemine Bloroughmush.

opponents motivated by such

Their captain, Fergus Hen-

derson, admits: "This final is

about so much more than abil-

ity. It's a nitty gritty thing that's hard to put a finger on. Man for

equal of Hawick, but they will

be playing to ensure they don't let their town down. That's

strong tradition.

New Zealand after working with his successor for the past month. The Leicester stand-off, Jez Harris, yesterday signed for local rivals Coventry as the Courage League Third Division champions announced seven new players for next season. The Leicester backs Richie Rob-

inson and Wayne Kilford, Nottingham's Matt Gallagher, Mark Crane of Clifton, and the England Schools players Richard Lloyd and James Brown are

Ban on union . jothe by Warrington

Rugby League

Warrington's management team of Alex Murphy and John Dorahy have killed off any hopes their players may have had of playing league in sum-mer and union in winter.

Several of the game's leading players – including Castleford's Frano Botica (with Orrell) and Widnes' John Devereux (Sale) - are to become all-year-round footballers following league's switch to a summer season and union's decision to go profes-

However, Murphy, Warrington's football executive, has ruled out any of his squad pursuing a career in both codes. No player will be allowed to play rugby union. It's club policy," he insisted. "John and I have discussed it. There's far too much happening in rugby league for us to let them go.

The only way Warrington players will be allowed to play

ngby union is if they go to mion full-time."

Dorahy, the Super League side's coach, added: "I played back-to-back football for five years and I know what the denands are. Rest is essential. We've had the centenary season and now the summer league, and I want my players to be ful-ly recovered by the time we get back to full training."

St Helens, Warrington's neighbours, have already said that they will not allow their players to play rugby union

next winter.

Meanwhile, Warrington have welcomed two new arrivals to Wilderspool: the New Zealand scrum-half Willie Swann and Alliance coach Robert Tew, an Australian. Swann, who played for Western Samoa in last October's World Cup, will make his debut on the substitutes' bench for Warnington's home game against Sheffield Eagles tomorrow.

Salford Reds will be without the Samoan winger Fata Sini for Sunday's First Division visit to Hull after he was banned for one match and fined £75 by the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee. Sini was dismissed during Salford's home defeat of Rochdale Hornets last weekend for tripping.

The Widnes hooker Paul Gartland, sent off in his side's 31-14 victory against Wakefield Trinity, has been found not guilty of a high tackle. The Barrow Braves prop Stuart Quayle, who received his marching orders for illegal use of the elbow. has been suspended for four games and fined £50.

David Chrimes, the Doncaster Dragons second-row forward, was handed a two-maton, ban and a £50 fine following hisdismissal, also for illegal use of

Points advantage is spur for Saints

DAVE HADFIELD

St Helens can give themselves the psychological boost of going four points clear of Wigan at the top of the European Super League if they beat London Broncos tomorrow.

Wigan's previous commit-ment at the Middlesex Sevens today means that Saints could open up a handy gap between them and their main rivals.

"Points in the bag are always the thing to have," Saints' chief executive, David Howes, said. But don't mention that to Kevin Keegan. As Newcastle found out, there is a different type of pressure that comes with being clear at the top, with every other side raising its game against you."

game at Knowsley Road, Saints have Scott Gibbs back in the centres after flu, with Alan Hunte dropping down to the substitutes' bench.

The London coach, Tony Currie, rates St Helens as the cluding coming back from an union trophy.

18-point deficit to win at Leeds last week. Broncos welcome back Greg Barwick at full-back after injury and move Peter Gill to loose-forward to cover for the absence of the suspended Terry Matterson.

Currie believes that his side's recent form is attributable, in part, to the hard line he has taken on discipline. "Since I sacked three players, nobody has been late for training and we have won both our games," he said.

"We have three new players arriving from Australia next week and Ikram Butt coming out of jail. So I'm happy that, even without those three, our squad is very strong.

The other match with implications for the top of the table is at Warrington, where Sheffield Eagles are the visitors.

Warrington have told their players to forget all about playing rugby union in the winter, but Wigan have no inhibitions about playing that game this afternoon at Twickenham.

The portents for them doing well are good. Second Division best team in Britain at the mo-ment, but his own side have Bramley played in the Leeds Sevens last week and became been performing admirably, in- the first league side to win a

And the second

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WOLVERHAMPTON

tes (Bristof), A M

HYPERION 7.00 Colins Choice 7.30 Sweet Supposit 8.00 Hillzah 8.30 Wardara 9.00 C-Harry 9.30 Young Benson

STALLS: Im til I tidlyds - outside; remainder side.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: high from 6f to 1m 4f.

Fibersand, left-hand, oval course.

Ourse is N of town on A-18 Wolverhampton station 1m. ADMISSION: (Jub \$15; Taiterstals \$6 (OAP members of Diagnond Club \$1); Viewing Restaurant \$25;50 including entrance and meal. CAR PARK: free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Our Kevin (vessed) (7.00); Sue Me (R.30), Run For Un (9.00). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Not LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Penmar (9.30) has neen sent 143 miles by T Etherlington from Norton, N fories: Spencer's Revenge (7,30) sent 141 miles by N Staler from Langton, N Vorke: Calchou (7,00) sent 140 miles by C Fairharst Brom Hikdleham, N Yorks.

7.00 ESF CARDIFF MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) CASTLE ASHEY JACK P Howing 90

__F Norton 6 224 I'M STILL HERE (S) I Beny 9 C.P Roberts (S) 1 0 AUST COUL (S) W G M Turner 9 C. T Spreaks 8 MASTER FOLEY N LIBROGER 9 D 43 OUR HEARN (8) (88) K McAustle 90.

8 Dromoe (3) 2

- 8 declared BETTING: 8-4 Fm SSR Hern, 3-1 Our Revin, 9-2 Skelton Severege, 8-1 fast Leni, 10-1 Colles Chalco, 18-1 Calchon, 20-1 others

7.30 EDINEURGH CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 1m 1f

23631 SPENCER'S REVENCE (17) (C) N Tolker 7 9 13 211610 SWEET SUPPOSIN (29) (20) C Dwyer 5 9 13 ... Sheek (3) 6 V 00 GOLDEN FILISHEE (14) O Trom 4 9 8.. G Med 8 SANDMOOR DESAM (5) (C) S.R. Bourseg 9 9 COV EVENING BRIGADIER (835) N Babbage 5 9 3 . 551330 DAVID THES COLD (C) A Bailty 4 9 2. 000006 FRANKLINSBOY (501) C Broat 4 9 1 00-00 PRICA BURD (19) 8 McMahon 3 B 4 ... 6 Carter 3 0-0 CLOWING RESDS (25) C Allen 3 8 0

BETTHO: 7-4 Sponour's Revenge, 7-2 Sandmoor Desim, 5-1 Surert Supposite, Deuts James' Strl, 16-1 Resul Lad, Gold-

8.00 BIRMINGHAM HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m 6f GLASS D) £5,100 added 1m 6f (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1 m 6f (CLASS D

3 060205 HELIZAN (1.4) (3) R Bassimen (9) 6 H Bassimen (5) 2 160965 SHAKIYR (FRS (S) (C) R Hallershead 5 9 4 000630 UNSUSPICIOUS (703) C Broad 6 7 10 7 declared – - 7 declared – Minimum weight 7st 108. True handcap weight Unsuspicious

79 180. BETTING: 11-4 Well Arranged, 3-1 Militaris, 7-2 Gree 8-1 Backview, 8-1 Iota, Shakiyr, 14-1 Ussuspicious

8.30 PLYVINE CATERING HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 6f 1 304000 LEIGH CROFTER (1/4) (C) (O) P Cundell 7 10 0 2 500-003 WARDARA (9) (D) C Dwyer 4 9 4_

3 000-000 SUE ME (30) (D) \n Max = 94 7 00-0050 TAEL OF SEVER (11) (0) + Burke - 62 000351 JON'S CHOICE (S) (CO) 8 Prece 8 7 10.....

Malman weight is 100. The handles weight land Charle 151 591 SETTING 9-4 Leign Crotter, 3-1 Worden, 5-1 Vox New Way 6-1 Jun's Choice, 7-1 Teel Of Silver, 8-1 See Sie, 14-1 other

9.00 WOLVERHAMPTON SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 2YO 6f 54 ABSTONE AGAIN (14) PESTS 8 12 J Fortune 4 43023 C-HARRY (9) R Holinsheed 8 12 450 RUN FOR US (127) C Days: 8 7 J Stack (3) 2 8

6 TAZIO NENVOLARI (IAQ W G V Tumer 8 7.

9.30 LONDON HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 100yds 415354 CHADLESH LANE (14) (CD) R Holostead 4 9 8

5 20355-0 EXCLUSIVE ASSEMBLY (98) A James 4 8 11. 7 1020-34 SCATHERURY (19) (C) 5 Woods 38 10 8 2-55164 BRONESTER LASS (14) (D) 5 R Bource 4 8 5 9 3060-05 RING THE CHEF (28) 11 LSTEF 483. 11 000000- LUCY'S GOLD (325) N: Pign 5 7 10

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mendations to restructure the anyone else to learn I was no a small board of directors. They side on Monday from Brian club in order to meet the needs longer required." of the professional game," the tatement read. ing over from the existing opment at the club and players'
"As a consequence of this reGloucester Ground and Athcontracts." statement read.

ecutive is no longer required and Mr Coley offered his res-

ignation from that post." Rugby Football Union market- cester chairman, said. ing manager insisted. "I accepted the decision. But it was

structuring, the post of chief ex- letic Club Limited, which was formed a century ago to look after the Kingsholm pitch.
"We decided a couple of

Coley, Gloucester's first full- months ago that we must betime chief executive and mar- come a limited company with keting manager, was shocked by the decision. There was no acrimony," the 50-year-old former mittee," Alan Brinn, the Glou-

"There will be a new trading company called Gloucester as much of a shock to me as RFC Ltd, which will be run by

WARWICK

HYPERION

Talk 8.10 Loyal Gait 8.40 Tullow Lady

BLDIKERED FIRST TIME: Nove.
WINNESS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Governor
Duniel (7.10) won at Southwell on Monday, James Pigg
(7.40) won at Chepstor on Wetherday; Expressment
(8.10) was at Holnicote point-to-point on Saturday.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS; Jennyellen (5.40),
Knockbride (7.10) & Drish Stamp (7.40) have been
sent (64 miles by F Murphy from Midficham, North Yorkshire; Hir Genecology (6,40) has been sent (41 miles
by T McGovern from Lewes, 8 Susser; Most Equal
(6.40), Tipping The Line (7.10) & James Pigg (7.40)
sent 140 miles by H Pro from Nichaleshyne, Dearn.

ent 140 miles by M Pipe from Nicholashayne. Devon.

5.40 LEAMINGTON HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added

31-0000 SECRETARY OF STATE (BS) (D) O Adjust not

6734-PO WILL JAMES (12) (20) C Drewn 10 10 13 05-6PPO DODGY DANCER FLOD M Using 6 10 4

6.10 ROSE AND WILLIAM SUTTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E)

09/00-PP DUVEEN (21) 1 White 6 11 0 ___W McFedand P5/204 LONGWATHA (11) Nrs E Hearth 8 11 0 _____

BETTING: evens lacies Run, 6-4 Florce, 8-1 Louisvelles, 16-

6.40 MINTEX HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f

61,4UC5 MOST EQUAL (1A) (C) M Pipe 6 11 12 ...

6404P4 EASSU (7) (CD) A J Wilson 13 11 4 .

001052 PINECONE PETER (7) (0) 0 British 9 11 7 ...

11112P FRET CRACK (21) (CD) F Jordan 11 10 13

2324-05 MR GENEAULOGY (47) T McGovern 6 10 10 ...

325-000 THE EXECUTOR (15) J Joseph 6 10 1 ...

506202 ROYAL CRICUS (S) (D) P Hatt 7 10 1 ..

110yds

£4,500 added 2m 345222 REREE (14) (0) 1 Jenium 8 11 7 J Railton V 03P-251 MONNI RAN (8) R Horges 7 11 7

46/636-1 JERNELLEN (324) F Mushin 7 11 7

10 11 10 A P McCoy

BLDKKERED FIRST TIME: None

5.40 Jennyellen 6.10 Flerce 6.40

Pinecone Peter 7:10 Tim 7:40 Straight 3

will have the responsibility for Hanlon, who is returning to The new company will be tak- overseeing finance and devel-The England A flanker, Mar-

tin Corry, has turned down offers from Leicester and his former club, Newcastle, to stay with Bristol. "I thought long and hard

about the other offers but after lengthy discussions with coach Alan Davies, I have decided to stay," Corry, 22, said.

Davies, the former Welsh national coach, takes over at the Courage League First Division 7.10 CHARLECOTE 'NH' NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added

2m 4f 11,0vds

654 BLAZING DOVE (38) R Pros 5 11 0.

OF COMPORE PATCHWORK (25) Mg N M

O-POOSF SHANNON LAD (66) A Carrol 6 11 0

102PO TEPPEG THE LINE (21) M Pipe 6 11.0.

7.40 M J TIMMS & SON WINDOW CLEANERS H'CAP CHASE

3P6501 JAMES PIGG (3) N Pge 9 12 3 (5ex).

10042 STRAIGHT THUX (7) P Nichola 9 12 0

8.40 BOWING OUT STANDARD NH FLAT (CLASS H) £1,550 added

O BUGSYSHAP. (\$4) T Wel 6 11 7

- 11 decimed BETTING: B-2 Lume, 3-1 Autor Ludy, 4-1 inejemberdissta,
5-1 Morely Martal, 6-1 Santiss, 8-1 Moor Half Lady, 9-1 Kallach,
14-1 others

CHUSTYSUN O O'Neal 6 11 7 ___ B Feston (3)

5 11860 (90) K Badgester 5 11 7 ... M Kelster (7)

(CLASS C) £6,500 3m 2f

also joining Coventry.

11.45 liktasab 12.15 Plunder Bay 12.45 Habasha

1.15 Father Dowling 1.45 Moobakkr 2.20 Bally Clover 2.50 Sparkling Buck GOING: Good to First. mac, level with long straights, easy turns and a \$9.50; Course \$5 (QAPs \$2.50). CAR PARK: Free; pictric are:

RLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bulnhum (12,45), Musical Vocation & FLANKEREED FIRST TIME: Bainhand (12.45), Mandels Vocation & Sound Forcests (2.20). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Behand (11.45) wen at O-toneter on Seturing; Lemon's MH (2.20) won at Fonces! on Monday, LOWG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Amother Despiter (2.50) has been sext 202 miles by Mrs M Reveley from Linguiste, Cleveland.

11.45 ASKO APPLIANCES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m

- 5 declared - 6 Tormey (3) B BETTRAIL 5-4 James Figs, 9-4 Straight Talk, 4-1 High Stamp, 5-1 Heal Progress, 8-1 For Senter

8.10 SEASON'S END NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,400 added 3m 2f 1-5300P PROFESSOR LONGHAR (10) Mrs C Hols 9 12 5 12.15 DURACELL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 4f 110yds FAUPY DAMERS TREASURE (355) 6 Summers 10 12 0

3-3 EXPRESSMENT (44) Mass A Ross 12 12 0 003 GAELIC BOUE (26) Mrs 5 Smith 6 11 0... AGE (10) K Balley 6 11 () _____ T J N = 00P- 8000 LOOKING GUY (\$25) Mrs J Young 7 12 0 OLS SWEET BUCK (39) R Pugh 7 11 0. M Sharsatt QCOOP BALLYRANEBOW (159) C Leisson 8 10 9 — 5 Tegeten (7) 250-F00 FLAMING SANDS (24) K Wingove 7 10 9 — 1 Ryun 16-P405 DINO BALLY (71) (46) D Nicholson 5 10 7 — R Johnson SETTING: 9-4 Loyal Calt, 5-2 Professor Longituin, 7-2 Good Looking Goy, 4-1 Expressment, 6-1 Ryders Welle, 16-1 Daniers 12 00-0000 EMESTYMON (20) I MAKE 5 10 2

– 12 declared – BETTINE: 9-4 Plumder Bay, 5-2 Olmo Malka, 3-1 Imparial Violinge, 11-2 Beell: Blue, 7-1 Mexic Scare, 16-1 Maximum Cove, 33-1 others 12.45 RETTING LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m

136293 HABASHA (\$) M Pine 6 12 0... /2334/0 SEARCHLIGHT (33) T WESTON 8 11.7 26-0030 EMERALD RULER (7) (CD) (EF) P Weston 9 11.5. 1P-F7:10 RANGHAM (SE) (D) D McCart 9 11.3 _____ 100331 CRESTS GLEN (15) (CD) J M Bradley 7 11 1 ___ 50-4FML KERRY JANE (14) N Babbage 6 10 13. 9 410310 PROBROOD PICKER (53) (D) R Proc 9 10 11 __A P McCoy
10 UF733-4 ALDINGRON CHAPPLE (15) (D) B Precce 8 10 9 _Gary Lyone 11. QC031. TAKE THE LAST (378) | Gover 6 10 5 BETING: 100-30 Habbatha, 9-2 Chris's Glos, 6-1 Akington Chappie, 7-1 Kerry Jane, 8-1 Take The Last, 10-1 Pridemond Picker, 12-1 Reinhart, 18-1 others 1.15 VAX 11.1RA RAPIDE CONDITIONALS HAND-ICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 2m 7f 504/14-P 19/20N EXPRESS (14) (C) P Daton 10 10 10 Parket 528-542 PATHER DOWNLING (15) G Balang 9 10 5 B Fembra V UU1225 PROGREDOR (11) R Per 10 10 4 R Petron C 03433F CHARTER COMMAND WARE (26) W Clay 10 10 4 Gety Londs 6-456PP MING-MARTER (36) B Strew 11 10 0 P Crowley (5)

1.45 LOMBARD BACHE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 3m 355532- ED (373) Mrs S Smith 7 11 11 Richard Quest PO-60F0 DO RE (60VE (80) (b) Mrs J Phrens 8 11 9 W Macrons B 000002 PERS LIKE 60LD (21) M Pips 8 11 8 D Bridgeone 143311 LEMD VOCALIST (33) (c) R Rove 7 11 7 D 0*3dife 31112U DISTART MEMORY (226) (CD) P H 331123 USSAW MEMBERT (226) (CD) P HOUSE 7 10 13
33700 HAPPY HORSE (RC) (RS) (CD) N HAMES 9 10 6 ... R Greene
131125 MODENOR (155) (D) (RF) K Morgan 5 10 5 ... A 5 Smith
130001 GRACE CARD (LT) (D) R Woodware 10 10 5 ... A 7 McCoy
1975123 SPERIO SPINSS (LS) (RS) R Hys B 10 4 ... T Descentibe (3)
875516 NORTHERN SQUIRE (LS) (D) (RF) J Infreson 8 10 4 ... Weel
ACOUS-O WAR O' THE ROSES (LA) C Proc 5 10 0 R Massey (S)

- 12 decisred -Minimum weight: 10st, True handicap weight: War C True Roses Set 10. GETTING: 3-1 Monton Point, 9-2 Lead Vocalist, 11-2 Feels Like Gold 1 Ed., 7-1 Grace Card, 8-1 Distant Mes

2.20 DOMESTIC APPLIANCES DISTRIBUTORS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 2m 7f - 13 declared
FETTING: 5-4 Lamour's MEIL, 5-3 Bully Clover, 5-1 Store: Draw, 8-2 Fem
hidge, 12-1 Tour Leader, 14-1 Sound Forecast, 25-1 others

2.50 APOLLO 2000 MARIES INTERMEDIATE NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m 5 CHAMPACHE FREND (70) A J Wilson 5 11 0 Chris Webb (5) 6 DERRYDELLE (35) D Wilson 5 11 0 Chris Webb (5) RSHLEY RYSR P Johnson 5 11 0 45 FL005Y(7)) Edwards 5 11 0 POUR THINE S Ease 6 11 0 2 GAMPAII (90) N Preson-Daves 5 11 0 RESHEY I Grand 5 11 0 LLY POPPOP & Wandhaver 5 11 0E Had TRILE PRYME (48) C Smith 6 12 d B Clarke (7)
MEPTERAL PROSPECT J Sheehen 4 10 9 D Corson (7)
MEPTERNES MISS M VWG0500 4 10 9 D Corsole (7)
SPARROLING BUCK O STERMOOD 4 10 9 D TROPAGE

22 decimals

- 22 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Garquell, 4-1 Ritchey, 5-1 Austitus Daughter, 6-1 Royal Ruler, 7-1 Sparking Back, 8-1 Brown Wren, 10-1 Floosy, 12-1 others

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Gothenberg a capital bet in Paris

Racing **GREG WOOD**

It is a big afternoon for televised racing, but not the variety with which most armchair punters are familiar. If your technology remains restricted to the four terrestrial stations, the only horse you are likely to see this afternoon will be underneath Errol Flynn in the Channel 4 swashbuckler. Those who subscribe to the Racing Channel on satellite, by contrast, can enjoy constant action until 7pm, including the Derby and Oaks trials at Lingfield.

The Racing Channel was launched late last year, but until 1 May it was forced to end its transmissions at 4pm, which by April was barely half-way through the afternoon's cards. Now, with an extra three hours each day, the station is hoping to increase its list of subscribers from around 15,000 towards its year-one target of 25,000. That push can only be assisted by Lingfield's decision to sign up with TRC, rather

to a mid-morning slot by the Cup-obsessed BBC. fact that three of the five entries are maidens. Lady Carla was a

What will not help, it must be said, is the quality of this year's renewals. Both appear to consist of second and third-string Classic candidates, while Henry Cecil's Dovaly, who has a ma-jor chance in the Derby Trial, is not even entered for Epsom. None the less, Lingfield must be congratulated for refusing to bow before the might of football, unlike its Surrey neighbour which brought forward the offtime for the Derby to avoid a clash with Euro '96. The resurgence of the national game is to be welcomed, but other sports need to stand up for themselves if they are not to suffer as a re-

Dovaly (3.45), who beat John Gosden's highly rated Sacho in a maiden at Newmarket last month, should beat Heron Island in the Derby Trial, and many will fancy Cecil to complete a double with Lady Carla in the Oaks Trial.

A measure of the unusually poor quality of this year's race - it is only four years since User than have its two most impor-tant races of the year shunted Friendly completed the Ling-field/Epsom double – is the

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS; R O'Sallivan — 50 without from 315 run-

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: R O'Sallivan — 50 winners from 315 runners gives a success ratio of 15.3% and a loss to a 51 level stake of \$30.74; Lord Huntlegdon — 48 winners, 219 maners, 21.9%, 4:2.54; A Moore— 43 winners, 214 runners, 10.0%, -\$40.25; M Johnston — 42 winners, 249 runners, 38.5%, +\$18.94.
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: L Dectori — 82 winners, 336 tides, 16.5%, -\$20.40; R Cochrame — 72 winners, 407 fides, 17.7%, -\$42.81; J Wester — 70 winners, 349 fides, 20.1%, +\$0.61; T Quinn — 61 winners, 372 rides, 16.4%, -\$33.24.
BLINKERS FIRST TIME: Stading (2.15), Christians Klas (3.15).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Stranston Abby (3.15) has been sent 270 miles from M Johnston's Middleham stable m North Yorkshire.

2.15 UNITED HOUSE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE.

DENERAE showed signs of returning to form less time when third of 20 behind Paley Grimes and Meranti at Selschury, beaten a hapd and helf a length. Apprentice ridden that day, the four-year-old will benefit from John Reid's strong handling and might prove the answer to a micky opener. So batrepid seems as good as ever and produced a powerful finish to pip To The Roof a neck when a 16-1 chance at Leicester's forthight ago, revising certier form with the runner-up, who had finished about five lengths behind him when they were second and the runner-up, who had finished about five lengths behind him when they were second such according to the second and the runner-up. When the second and the length is the second over the years and zipped back to his best when melang all in a Brighton claimer on his most recent start. How's Vier Fatther, Privas Silk and Samsolom all ran well lest time. How's Vier Fatther finished a later to the second and the state of the second and a state of the second and the second

Famor, Prima Sam, and Samacoom as an west lest unit. How's for Faurer interfect a bar fourth to Latching at Kennpton 12 days ago and should again hold seventh-placed Modification. Prima Sak, who scored three times last term, ran soon of 21 behind Almasi under 9st 12b as Notingham, while Pat Eddery is an eye-custoning booking for old Samacolom, who can fifth of 15 behind Barrel Of hope at Portlergict 12 days ago. Stating, who went in at Barth and Leicester in 1995, has been implaced in both attempts this season and finished more than six lengths admit of Denbrae at Salishury lest time but could progress for the Bart-time blink-ers.

Salacettee: DENBRAE

2.45 OCS LADY RIDERS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 edded to stakes 7f

2.0gono, 10-1 Apartica 2.1995: Padoy's Rice 4 8 1 D Hamson 5-1 (l. J Hoti) 13 rati

winner on her only start last year, but will probably start at a prohibitive price and Moody's Cat (4.15), the other runner with a victory to her name, may offer some value. Barry Hills's filly was though worthy of a run in the Prix Marcel Boussac last

autumn, and should improve for today's step up to 12 furlongs. The most significant card this weekend is at Longchamp tomorrow, where the British challenge for the Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2,000

3.35 DUBAI POULE D'ESSAI DES POULICHES (Group 1) 3YO fillies 1m Value £131,752

- 9 declared -BETTHYG: evens Shake The Descript, 5-2 A Vertre Santa, 4-1 House Dance 7-2 True Flara, 8-2 Relegorable, To Ele, 10-1 Shawarel, 16-1 others 1995: Manara 3 9 0 F hand 28-10 (Ame C Head) 16 zan

TRUE FLARE (USA) (7) Name C Head 3 9 0 Pat Editory 8

locals may wish they could ban imports of our horses, too. Six of the 10 runners are from our side of the Channel, including Danebill Dancer, who could fin-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Sudden Spin (Beverley 3.55) NB: Bubble Wings (Lingfield 2.45)

ish only a distant sixth behind Mark Of Esteem in the Newmarket Guineas last weekend. If Danehill Dancer wins or Guineas) is so strong that the goes close, it will be a further

strong indication that the middle ground on the Rowley Mile was far slower than that on the stands' rail. That would add to the embarrassment of Nick Lees, the clerk of the course, who continues to insist that no such strip of false ground existed, but if Ladbrokes odds on the race are to be trusted, Lees

has little to worry about. That firm makes the Aga Khan's Ashkalani the evenmoney favourite for tomor-Classic, which seems remarkably short on the basis of his win in a skowly run Group Three event

4.05 DUBAI POULE D'ESSAI DES POULAINS 1335.1 BASRICADE (FE) (37) A Paire 3'9.2 [Jamest 1 1.1 ASSACLANG (23) A de Roge Cups 3'9.2 [S Moses 5 2313.2 KANE ALMANON (22) Daving (583 9'9.2 [W Carriers 10 13.2 ETERNITY RANGE (USA) (21) P Bay 3'9.2 [F Head 8 ASSAC (Group 1) 3YO colts 1m Value £131,752 _1 Detteri 7 11-3 SPRADIG WORLD (USA) (21) | Prose 3.9.7 . C Assertion 1A1133 THREEA (22) I Briding (EB) 392 ______K Declay 2 1112-16 DAVETELL DAVICER (EB) K Callegian (EB) 392 _____K Declay 2 24212-1 CRYMANI (MI (25) R Harmon (GB) 392 _____Pat Eddary 3

BETTING: evens Ashbeleni, 8-1 Electrity Range, Deachill Duscer, 10 Capuma Nai, Spinckey World, 12-3 Burfoeds, Nebir Akmaydas, 14-1 Gotto berg, Taglate, 26-1 Den Micheletto 1998: Vetup 3 9 2 L Detter 9-2 (Scatte on Succe, Gib 8 ran

Better value clearly lies elsewhere and Cayman Kai, the Free Handicap winner, is in-teresting at 10-1, but the price which stands out is the 14-1 against Gothenberg (Sunday 4.05). Mark Johnston's colt put up the best performance of his career to take the Tetrarch Stakes at The Curragh by six lengths, and his trainer would not have supplemented him - for £13,500 - unless he believed him to have a serious

The Poule d'Essai des Pouliches (French 1,000 Guineas) should stay at home, with Elie Lellouche's Shake The Yoke (Sunday 3.35) able to resist the challenge of A Votre Sante, trained by Criquette Head, Shawanni (Barry Hills) and Ta Rib, Ed Dunlop's first Classic runner, form the British entry. The Prix Lupin, the day's third Group One, should be another for Lellouche, thanks to his French Derby candidate,

LONGCHAMP (3.05, Pro, Lupro, 1m 2! 110ydr; La Triton Unime C Head; F Head; Fort Nottinghem U Hammond C Asmuser, Cachet Not (P Bay) F Grent; Neilselo (E Laliouche) D Soeuf; Loup Sofitaire (A Fab-na) O Residen

LINGFIELD DERBY TRIAL - 10-YEAR-TALE 1986 87 88 89 90 91 92 53 94 95 Vicator's place in butting: 2 74 56 56 52 94 92 94 141 51 56 3 8 2 2 1 3 7 9 4 2 Profit or loss to £1 stake: Revourtes -£1.26. Second Ferourtes -£0.50 ercentage of whomers placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last rate: 90% rtest-priced winners: Muneer (1995). Karyasi (1888), Liggs Bid (1967) 5-6 Longhest-priced wismer: Boo's Return (1983) 14-1 Top trainers: H Caci (2) — Mastriour (1983) & Lagal Bid (1987); M Sanute (2) — Rock Hopper (1990) & Hauker's Notes (1994). Top jackay: WR Swebburn (3) - Rock Hopper (1990), Assessor (1992) & Hawker's News (1993).

Grindstone retired after Derby victory

Grindstone, who last Saturday won the Kentucky Derby, was vesterday retired to stud after was discovered that he had chipped a bone in his off-fore leg. The injury was discovered in Grindstone's knee following a morning workout at Churchill Downs, the first workout for the horse since winning the Derby on the same track at the weck-

Grindstone showed discomfort coming off the track and radiographs revealed the injury, the colt's owner. William Young, reported in a statement. "This is in the best interest of the health of the horse," Young said. "This injury is not life-threatening to Grindstone, it's simply the right thing to do."

The colt the son of the 1990 Kentucky Derby winner, Unbridled, becomes the first Derby winner to miss the Preakness since Spend A Buck in 1985.

Grindstone, whose career ends with three wins and two seconds in just six starts, had career earnings of \$1,224.510. He will stand at Young's Overbrook Farm in Lexington. Grindstone nosed out

Cavonnier in a photo-finish last Saturday to give his train-er, D Wayne Lukas, an unprecedented sixth straight Triple Lukas will still have a chance to extend his streak at the

Preakness Stakes in Baltimore on Saturday week. Before the injury to Grindstone, Lukas had planned to enter as many as four horses in the Preakness, including the strong Derby contenders Prince Of Thieves (who finished third) and Editor's Note (sixth).

The absence of Grindstone will weaken a Preakness field that will likely also be without Unbridled's Song, who was fifth in the Derby.

5.00: 1. EURO SCEPTIC (F Lynch) 8-1: 2.

CARLISLE

Diet 11-2; 3. Breambles Way 66-1. 10 res. 9-4 fay Proud Irrags (4th), 24-4, ric U Wasston). Tota: £4.30; £1.40, £2.00, £9.50. DF: £12.30. CSF: £23.72. Tro: £208.00.

its advanta Pur for Sain

		•
2.15 AGWA (nap) 2.45 Apollo Red 3.15 Branston Abby	HYPERION 4.15 Moody's Cat 4.45 Mutamanni 5.15 Lead Him On	10 600640 MMWSELE BERBERAC (19 SM's Patresship) P Michel 3 10 0 Julies 9 Michel M 11 056004 EDGAR WRSY (20 Mic P W Herid) P Hans 5 10 0 Michel 3 10 0 Julies 9 Michel M 12 600-0 CHAVEN COTTAGE (14) Also Bory Williams) C James 3 10 0 Michel Carbett (13 040230 LOWE 1586100 (12) (5) (6) Also P M Yeomers 0 Arbstins 11 9 11 Julies D Arbstins 14 40-0 SUPERIOR FORCE (33) (Copylone Lth Mass B Sanders 3 9 9 Michel Dissa John 15 655-055 THORRY MSSMOP (100) (5) (Destinger) 9 Paurs 5 9 1 Michel Michel Michel Michel M 15 060-005 ERREZED WELL (19) (0) Blas H Noonen) B Cambidge 10 9 0 Michel M Month Michel Michel M 15 (10) Michel M 15 (10) Michel Michel M 15 (10) Michel M 15 (
3.45 Heron Island (nb)		DOWNER & & Show Only 0.2 Married 42.0 double Bad Dubbe Miner Bale United 48.4 Pt

...W Woods 11 ..T Askiny (7) 8 .S Whitworth 6 ...Pat Bhiory 2

_Deno O'Hell (3) 10 B

resulted weight 556, 1962 resulting weight invested Weil 857 130.

BETTING 4-1 then Strike, 9-2 Nextons, 13-2 Apollo Red, Bubble Wings, Bold Habit, 10-1 Duncting Heart, Edger Richy, 13-1 Breazed Weil, Mr Cabe, Persies Allar, Duncing Heart, 14-1 Love Laguari, Staten History, 20-1 others GOING: Good to Firm (Firm in back straight).

STALLS: Straight course — stands side; Im 2f — inside; remainder — touside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High usually best of to 7f 140yds.

Let-hand, sharp undulating course.

Reacceourse is SE of town on 82028. Lingüeld station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members £16, Tautensalis £12; Silver Ring £6. CAR PARE: Club £3, remainder free.

A course and distance winner on fast ground in 1995, NORSONG has not reced for 226 days but Reg Aleinust should have him fit enough and Amenda Perest is a polished noter. Apollo Red got up on the post to master Alwight Then a head at Brighton test time and is the only one with winning form this season. Even 50, Moore Strike might prove a bigger threat. Trained by Stuart Williams, who is enjoying a successful season, this six-yeer-old was a winner fest time up in 1995 on the Environch have and he landed this event with today's 8 winner flast time up in 1995 on the Equitack here and he landed this or rider ky Foustok in the saddle, incling out Broughtons Turmoil. Saled

[3.15	TH GROUP CHARTWELL STAKES (CLASS A) fillies (Listed race) £17,000 added 7f
1	220-035	BRANSTON ABBY (5) (CC) (J Dead Abel) M Johnson 7 9 8
2	001-114	CARRANGIA (9) (0) (Lamb Lace Associates) B Palling 6 9 8
3	3160-00	CHRISTIMAS KISS (24) (Peter R Princhest) R Hamoon 4 9 3
- 4	10-2113	TSLA DEL REY (USA) (45) (D) (Godolphin) Seeed bin Susor 4 9 3 Dettor 6
5	451000	PARES BASE (225) (C) (Ales Susan I Pary) D Moras 4 9 3
6	12-6	MORE THAN YOU ISNOW (10) (D) (Both Latement) R Harmon 3 8 5T Quint 5
		a destruct

- 8 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Currentle, 11-4 ista Dal Ray, 3-1 Branston Abby, 8-1 More Then You Keen, 10-1 Christ-

FORM GUIDE

a Abby, who will be having her 80th race and seeking her 20th success, won the nding race two years ago and has a few pounds in hand of CARRANITA on Official corresponding race two years ago and rais a law pounds in raino or Chindevilla on Original Returns. However, Carrente lad a head to spare over her rival when they were close-up fourth and fifth to like and as Salisbury whe days ago and can again have the edge although the ground with to likely enough for both of them. That was Carranta's sole defeat this sesson, Bryn Pelling's mere having previously scored gamely at Beverley and at Thinks, where she rat on strongly to defeat previous winner Aust a length. Islan Del Rey, who won a Trake maiden in Ireland last seeson for John Oxo's stable, now represents Godophin and was successful in two handings at Ned Al Shebe, Dubai, in February while she nan third there last those on Table and Table

. [3.45	TREPLEPRINT DERBY TRIAL STAKES (CLASS A) (Gra £50,000 added 3YO 1m 3f 108yds	oup 3)
1	5426 15	ACHARNE (13) Parol Record C British 8 7	Boyla 4
. 2		DISSERSED (USA) (215) (415) Prince Felid Skimen) P Cole & 7	
3		DONALY (25) (K Abdulla) H Coal 8 7	
4	14-61	HERON ISLAND (S) (R E Sengger) P (happie-Hyam & 7	3
5		MOSTIC INSORT (21) (Lady Oppenhemer) R Charton 8 7	
6	55540-6	ZAFORLINI (25) (The Forum Ltd) L Moreague Hail 8 7	0716 ₹ 5
		- 6 deciated -	

BETTRIC: 7-4 Dovely, 9-4 Heren Island, 7-2 Mystic Knight, 13-2 Diseased, 14-1 Acharae, 33-1

Henry Cacil, who won this with subsequent Derby victor Silp Anchor (1985), Mashkour (1986) and Legal Bid (1987), can again do the trick, this time with DOVALY, who was not ercent for the Blue Riband. A son of Middle Perk winner and Two Thousand Guineas runner-up Lyclus and out of a mare by Triple Crown hero Highely, Dovely has won his only race to dette, defising the much-touted Sacrio half a length over a mile and a quarter at the Newman fact Crown meeting. He han on strongly close home after appearing held approaching the furiong marker. Third-placed Generosus and Dustyentor, both galloping companions of the salaction, have scored recently and Dovaly, bound to improve a few pounds with thet expendence of which the house detrieves extraction and is a new pounds with the constitutions. selection, have stored recently and Doually, bound to improve a few pounds with that expe-rience, and with the longer destance certain to suit, is preferred to Herou Island. One of four Deby enthies on view here — the others are Achienne, Mystic Knight and Zestorum — Heron Island represents Peter Chapple-Hyam, who who won Tuesday's Chaster Yese with High Barroque. The Shirky Heights colt made a winning debut at Donosater (good to soft) last September and finished a fair found to Yeso Thousand Guineas numer-up Even Top in a Listed event at Newmarket on his only subsequent start last term. Only sight to Storm Trooper in the same grade back at Newmarket on his respectancer. Heron Island landed the odds at Selebury (I.m. 2f) nine days ago and is enother who will be susted by this stap-up in distance. Pick of the others might be Mystic Knight, women of the last but of four robes as a luxenile and sharper for his posing sever—length that (of five) to High Baroque at New-

	_
4.15 CHAMPAGNE RUINART OAKS TRIAL STAKES (CLASS A) (Lister of race) £20,000 added 3YO fillies 1m 3f 108yds	1
1 43-4 FLAME WALLEY (USA) (15) (Chevelov Park Saud) M Sanute B B	}
2 1- LADY CARLA (200) (Nail: Sad) H Ceci 8 8 Pat Eddery 2 3 3- MERGEL (224) RT E Sangsent P Chapple-Hyam 8 8 J. Rahii 4	t
4 210-4 MOORE'S CAT (27) (K.A.Sad) BHIB: 88	l
5 OO PROMISSORY (6) (B H Vools) C British B 8	1
BETTWIC 5-4 Lady Carls, 11-4 Meribel, 7-2 Moody's Cat, 7-1 Flance Valley, 33-1 Provisiony	1

1995: Astestza 3 8 8 Paz Etislery 6-1 (R Heymon) 5 ran FORM GUIDE A four-length winner of her single start so far, at Leicester last October, Oaks hope LADY CARLA has been working well and the filty, who cost 220,000grs as a yearing, is possed for a successful return. General Macarthur, runner-up in the Leicester race, lended a Not-ingham handicap on his reeppearance and Lady Carta, a daughter of Carelano out of a Stinley Heights mare, should be in her element over this sort of trip. Moodly's Cart, the only other Oaks entry under orders for this, won at Ascot in the middle of three races less season and her unplaced nun was in the Group J. Prix Marcel Boussac at Longcham, She will be straighter for her fourth at Sen Siro on her return. Even so, Lady Carta might have most to fear from Peaur Chapple-Hyam's MeetBed, who haid every chance a furlong out when that to Casas Romance at Haydock in September on her only goung so fair. Selections: LOY CARLA

		Haydock in September on her only outing so list. Selection: LADY CARLA	1
4	.45	HSBC JAMES CAPEL HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,500 added 7f	
	13110-0	SHIKARTS SON (9) (7) (Alex Spanes) J Culinen 9 10 0T Culon 9 WILD NICE (10) (CD) (Ledy Oppenheimer) 6 Wingg 4 9 11M Hills 10	
l	5129445- 222441	ZAMALEK (ÚSÁ) (SZÁ) (D) (Dánd Humphres) G [Motre 4 9 8	
•	04431-4	PRIMA COMMINIA (20) (Dr Frank S 8 Chao) S Whools 4 9 1	
	2-64040	ERSY CHONCE (USA) (15) (C) U Monton) P Mitchell 4 8 10 A Clark 8 NEUMEST (USA) (10) (Paul Green) N Welter 4 8 8 Stack (3) 4	
	021-200	BE WARRIED (10) (0) (Alichourd) is Calagran 5 8 8	
1	224	MATTAMANNE (USA) (25) (Hamolen Al Markooum) H Thorreon Jones 3 8 5	

11 22-4 MITAMANUM (Many Many of the Continued — 11. declared — 11.

1995; Shaired 3 9 0 W Carson 8-11 (/ Duzelop) 8 rain

FORM GUIDE FORM GURDE

DOUBLE MATT struck form at Think on the last of seven starts last term and, all the better for his fourth to Daswe at Doncaster (67) on Monday, might be good enough to show the way home here. Slowly away at Town Moor, Richard Harmon's numer could make no impression in the closing stages and today's extra futing should be a heip. Will of Nice won four of his six starts last year, at Kempton, Chester and two on the Equitack here. He will be sharper for his opering run when — In company with Be Warmed and Mileter Fire Eyels — he firshed down the field in last week's Victions Cup, Golden Potand, from Gay Kellewey's stable in form, won a Thinsk malden by three lengths three weeks ago and should go well despite being mased 11th since his last run in a handicap when fourth or 16 to Champagne Grandy here before that but was apprainted ridden in both races this Season and Pat Edwy, who has won on him before, takes the mount today. Mistamanned finished unner-up Grantly nere useror use. So, was so, who says the mount today. Michaesanal finished number up the year has the mount today. Michaesanal finished number up in both his races as a juvenile in 1995 and shaped as though this econ furiong would suit in both his races as a juvenile in 1995 and shaped as though this econ furiong would suit in both his races as a juvenile of his responsarior.

Selection: DOUBLE MATI

5.15 A A APPOINTMENTS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100

	COME AND
4D-	INNEWARK (281) (Surey Biodistock Partnership) Jamie Poulton 4 9 12
δ-	NESTERN PLAYBOY (390) (Conal Havenagh) R Hannon 4 9 12
45-	BOLD CLASSIC (209) (Mrs. H Pocks) J Duniop 3 8 11
0	ELA AGARY MODI (LISA) (111) (Alex Andry Muince) G Leves 3 8 11
	FING RUPUS (14) (Mrs Audioy Proenchegh) J Arnold 3 8 11
56	LEND HIM ON (USA) (LA) (Mrs PW Harris) P Harris 3 8 11
	SADLER'S RENUM (11) (Chemiey Park Saxi) M Stoute 3 8 11
0	SEVENTIL EDITION (14) (Beding Racing Club) D Surchel 3 8 11
00-3	SPARDAN HEAVEHEAT (LA) (C T Olley) C Brozen 38 11
	WOT NO FRX (Veniguets Racing Partnesshot S Dow 3 8 11W Ryan 8
	HIGHTEN Prince Wald At Sect H Cool 3 8 6Pat Ethiery 7
0-0	LENERATRICE (FR) (24) (Mrs. John Dunlop) E Dunlop 3 8 6
	= 12 declared -

RETTING: 5-2 Ingrise, 3-1 Sparten Hourtboat, 7-2 King Rutus, 5-1 Lend Him On, 8-1 Sedier's Resim, 14-1 Bold Classic, Liberatrice, 20-1 others 1995: Felch 3 & 12 W Carson 7-2 (A Sewert) 11 ran FORM CURDS

FIGHA CLIENTE

NESTIMA is tancied for a successful debut. She is by crack miler Warning and the first fool of Nessuara, winner of two races over a mile and a half for the same yard as a three-year-old a few seasons back. Fick of those with experience appears to be Spartan Hearthest, unpleaded in both races last term but third of 17 to Hugwity (winner of a Chester Handicap on Tuesday) on his opening run this season at Letocater a formight ago. Sedien's Readin, a five-length seath to Dance Star at Nottingham on his only outing last season, never threat-end when unpleaded againset Leer Jet at Bath 11 days ago on his return but should do better this time. Ming Refuse any well on his debut in finishing fourth of 15 to King Alex at Leicester is formight ago when Lead Him On was a four-lengths sixth.

Selection: INCRINA

INGFIELD	4, 4, [] Dunion, Arun £1.00, DF: £1.40.
RACING	RESULT

11-10 tay; 2. Almuhimun 4-1; 3. Major Doudee 11-4, 10 res., Hd. 31/2. (Mass Gay Relieway, Newmarket). Tota: £2.50; £1.30, £1.50, £1.20. DF: £5.20. CSF: £5.33. Inc: 4.30: 1. ALPINE TIME (I. Detton) 1-2 fav; 2. Aybeegiri 7-1: 3. Gipsy Princess 33-1: 8 rsn. 21/2, 13/4, (D Loder, Newmarket). Totes: 11.40; £1.10, £1.30, £3.10. D*: £3.60. CS*: 2.20: 1. CAVIAR ROYALE (Pat Eddery) 4-9 Sov. 2. Enton Park 20-1; 3. Bold African 10-1. 5 ran. 5, 144. (R Hannon, East Ever-leggs). Totac £1.30; £1.10, £3.20. DF: £5.90. CSF: £8.54. 2.50: 1. 200AC Mr. J Durken) 3-1 fax; 2. Montone 8-1; 3. Methemiston 20-1, 13 ran. 5.00: 1. SURO SCEPTIC II LYNCO 8-1; 2. Commander Glen 12-1; 3. Commander Glen 12-1; 3. Commander River 12-1; 4. Westcourt Princess 4-1 if fav. 17 ran. 4-1 ii fav Murphy Soid. 27/s, nd. 7f Easterby, Nation), Totae: f11-30; f2.60, f5.80, f3.80, f1.70. DF: £95.10. CSF: £102.72. Tecast £1,125.63. True £376.40. Placepot: £17.70. Quadqot: £9.20. Place 8: £7.14. Place S: £6.18.

Montone S-1; 3. Meltenison 20-1, 13 ran. 144, 1. (P Makn., Ogbourre Marsey). Tota: £4.10; £1.50, £2.00, £5.90. DF: £10.60.

174, 1. If Makin, Ognourie Massyl, 10m; £1,0; £1,50, £2,00, £5,90, DF; £10,60.
CSF; £25,66, Trosst; £365,03, Tro: £190,10.
NF: Cheveley Dancer.
3,20; 1, \$00TY TERN IG Bardwel) 3-1 far; 2, Dusto Valenthron 15-2; 3, Wallidid Beach 9-2, 9 sa., 11/4, 1, U Bardley, Chepstow), Totec £5,40; £1,20, £2,70, £2,00, DF; £26,50.
CSF; £25,05, Trosst; \$94,76; Tro: £36,10.
3,50; 1, #IDGEMENT CALL (F Nortoru 16-1; 2, Masczarallo 14-1; 3, Life 7-1; 4, Flendy Brawe 13-2, 16 ran, 7-2 fav Derbleddeie, 11/4, 1/4, IP Howling, Godalming), Totec £35,30; £7,00, £3,60, £4,20; £3,60, DF; £139,10, CSF; £225,24, Tricsst; £1,603,28, Tric: £482,40.
4,20; 1, ICENT (A McGlone) 100-30; 2, Ruwy 9-4 ji far; 3, One in The Bye 68-1, 9 ran, 9-4 gira Jamacan Figin (41), 11/4, rik, cl. Candy, Warnagel, Totec £3,80; £1,30, £1,10, £4,10, DF; £27, CSF; £10,95, Itio; £1,90, After a stewards' inquiry, the place-

2.40: 1. JUST BOB (J Fortune) 9-4 lav; 2. Rockszacher 5-1; 3. Printstorre 40-1, 12 mm. 11/a, 1/a; (S Kerniewell), Totat: £2.90; £1.70, £2.80, £5.30. DF: £13.50. CSP: £13.30. Inc. £224.10. NR: Kung Frode.
3.10: 1. SELHURSTPARK FLYER (P Robers) 9-2; 2. Bassolo 3-1 lav; 3. Sonderise 7-1, 13 rate, 3, 1/a, (J Serry), Totat: £4.50; £1.50, £2.50. £3.00. CSP: £19.41. Titeast: £95.31. Tho: £58.80, 3.40: 1. FIRST GOID (K Falton) 4-1; 2. Diet 11-2: 3. Bronobles: Way 86-1, 10 rate. St. 10, Dr. 12-70. CSF: £10.55. Tito:
£1.190. After a stewards' inquiry, the placlags remarned unablaned.
4.50: 1. ALHAWA (T Quirru 6-1; 2. Yeast
4.9 for: 3. Queen of All Birds 8-1.6 sra.
Shird, 3. CJ Bersstead, Epsom). Total £5.60:
£2.10, £1.30. DF: £2.60.
1ackpot: £24,872.30 (part won; pool of
£31.878.65 carned forward to Lingdeld todayl. Placespot: £13.60. Quadpot: £12.80.
BEVERLEY

2.30: 1. FOR OLD TIMES SAKE [G
Carel evers far; 2. Inish Fiction 7-4; 3. Limital Belle 20-1; 3. Cralgations Magfile 3-2.5 sean. 5, 1½, U Berry, Cockenhamt, Total: £1.70: £1.10, £1.50. DF:
£1.80. CSF: £3.53. NR: Loch-Hum Lady, Mill
End Gil.

3. Children Col. (C. August 13-8 for
10-1; 2. Lestrie 20-1; 3. Urban Dancing 5
10-1; 2. Lestrie 20-1; 3. Urban Dancing 5-

Table 1.5 Speed on C Russer 1.3-8 fav. 2. Stand 4-1: 3. Mystic Maid 12-1. 12 ran. 5, 1/2. pt Candy, Wartaget. Totas: £2.70: £1.30, £2.20, £2.80. DF: £6.10. CSF: £1.10.5. Tot. £46.30. NR. Petrana. 3.30: 1. CAMPASPE (Dark O'Nell) 14-1: 2. Strategie Ploy 13-8 fav. 10 ran, 11/2. 1. U Fraderad, Matoni. Totas: £15.50; £3.70. £2.50, £1.10. DF: £103.70. CSF: £101.62. Tricast: £202.01. Tric: £157.06. NRs: Anchorera, Rose Chime. 4.00: 1. SERENDUPITY (W Carson 7-4: 2. North Sond 4-6 fax: 3. Blurned 7-1. 6 ran.

RACELINE <u>| 168+ | 168+ | 1</u> BEVERLEY WORCESTER W'HAMPTON

PRICE 8: 2505.21. PRICE 5: 2525.03.					
*INDEPENDENT					
RACING 0891	SERV 26	CES +			
LIVE COMMEN UNGFELD	TARIES	RESULTS			
BATH REVERIEY	972 973	982			
WORCESTER WARWICK (E)	ų~ <u>1</u> 6*3	984 985			
WOLVERHAMPTON ALL COURS	ES RESU				
0891 2	619	70			

5.10: 1. PERSAN SMOKE (Marun Dwyer)
10-1; 2. Lostria 20-1: 3. Urban Denbelg 51. 12 ran. 3-1 fav Zenvierer: 5, 1%, (A Höre).
Tote: £11.10; £3.90, £3.30, £1.80, DF:
£104.90, CSF: £178.07. Trease: £1,043.81.
Troc: £268.30. NRs: Sadvieta, Uncie Doug,
quadpot: £637.90 (part wor; pool of
£784.46 carried forward to Lingfield today).
Placenote: £5.472.50.

Mysele desp. Philade after hour, T.L.S. plc, beaution & H.Z.A. 47 FINAL BET!

ALL THE CUP FINA BETTING

from the **SPORTS BETTING** paper that scores

The Sporting Life

2.10 Silver Showers 2.40 Enchantica 3.10 The Lad 3.40 Anselman 4.10 Commoner 4.40 Quality GOING: Good to Plent

STALLS: STRILES: STRILES: Low for 3£.

■ Left-band, salloping course. Four furlong run-in bends to the left and is upthill all the way.

■ Course is 2m NW of city near A431. Bath stadon im. ADMISSION: Club 512; Tancenalls 58; Silver Ring 54; Course £1. CAR PAEK: Centre of course £5 for ear plus driver and £1 for each unseenest; remainder free. SIS

BLINEERED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None LONG-DISTANCE RUNDERS: Enchanging (2.40) & Amelinan 3,40) have been sent 213 miles by J Berry from Cocherham, Lanca. 2.10 CHAPEL FARM MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 370 1m

BEVERLEY

6 SILVER SHOWERS (12) M Strute 8 11 R Cod 8-8 VOLARE (8) 8 Meeten 8 11 M 74 — 10 declared — BEJTHNS: 5-2 lines in The Stope, 3-1 Silver Showers, 9-2 Mass Preside, 7-1 Voices, 8-1 Lady Bankes, Perfect Girt, 12-1 Indian Macter, 20-1 others 2.40 TAITERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS E) £4,200 added 240 5f

ROSENKAVALIER L.G. Cycled 8 9 Carrad Cyneru R Alebast 8 3..... 5 PETTE DANSELISE (14) \$ Dow 83.

— 9 declared ~

BETTHO: 7-4 Enchantica, 4-1 President, 5-2 Mindiana, 5-1 Caried Cyntu, 10-1 Polito Danneuss, 12-1 Resentantiller, 20-1 others 3.10 Mins HELEN 175 EA,200 2m 11 34yris

__S D₁₀R Cockrane 6 5 6-22720 COLESEDGE (50) | Sheeten 8 8 9 ...

3.40 ROMAN CITY HANDICAP (CLASS C) 27,650 added 5f 00-0022 SRR JOEY (7) (D) P Murphy 7 9 12 ______ S Drowso (3) 10, 62-5122 TO THE ROOF EAS (D) P Herrs 4 9 9 _____ R Head 1, 003810 LAW COMMISSION (289) D Elevant 6 9 9 ____ A Proceed 10,0410 WISTER JULSON (7) (CD BF) R Hodge 7 9 6.R Cochrane 11, D433-00 THAT AND A HALF (15) (D) B Meetinn 4 9 5 ____ M Tobbatt 6

005-001. ANSELIMAN (13) (20) J Barry 8 9 5 _______ Carrell 7 8 026000 - ANN'S PEARL (217) (00) J Hills 5 9 3 ______ B Thomson 8 4031-04 POLLY GOUGHTLY (4) (20) M Biensted 3 9 3 _____ 10 0652-02 JUESA (11) (63) J Spennig 7 8 7 _______ S Sanders 12 11 32-0046 LA RELIE DOMENQUE (11) S Roget 4 7 12 ____ F Norton 9 12 30400-0 LOUISVELLE RELIE (34) M Unior 7 7 10 _____ M Admins 2

1200-00 TIMER OSMASTON (15) (C D) M Saucies S 9 0.1 F Egan 3

3.25 ROTHMANS NORTH SOUTH SERIES HCAP (CLASS D) £8,000 added 1m 100yds

Minimum weight 7st 10th. Thus handkup weights: Roseate Lodge 7st 9th, Bal-Medicular recign. 1 - America de Bay Gest St. BEJTIME: 11-2 Bellin Franci, 6-1 Pride Of Pennile, 7-1 Always Happy, Tench A Million, 8-1 Gymarch Flyer, Ramino Weitzer, 10-1 Tertians, Penry Besitt-umlin, 12-1 Courser, Karlindon, Logal Isane, 18-1 Epidon, Nashant, Moust-

9 050-564 2579M07 (5) (C) M Lisher 6 B 1 _________N Adamsu 3 _______ 9 deplaced _ BETIRN≥ 5-2 Easy Listening, 13-4 Gibte Path, 6-3 Stiently, 7-1 Quality, 8-1 Earnion Hill Boy, 18-1 Sweat Paniova, Zurasati, 13-5 others Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True Immilian weights: Tenorest Machiel 7st 7th, Geographs 7st 3b.
BETTREC: 9-4 izzu, 6-1 Gened Cerebon, 7-1 Chelentels, 6-1 Swiden Spin,
10-1 Royal Expression, Contracts Lageard, 13-1 French My, Hotspur Streat,
Historial, Valle Prince, 16-1 Can She Can Can, 20-1 others

4.10 SOMERSET CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £7,650 added 1m 3f 144yds

- 4 deciment -BETTING: 4-8 Commoner, 5-2 Royal Scientist, 8-1 High Shot, 14-1 Charter

4.40 RADSTOCK HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,650 added 1m 2f 46yds

226\$-55 COMMONER (町 R Harmon 4 9 2,.......

20100-0 GLIDE PATH (\$3) (D) J Hills 7 10 0.

602210- SWEET PAYLONA (247) (CD) P Cole 4 8 4 ...

2 20021-8 Hall SHOT (14) G Leus 590.

4.25 YORKSHIRETYNE TEES LIMITED STAKES (CLASS D) £5,500 added 3YO 1m 4f 5150-5 CLASSIC FLYER (6) \$ Welfors 8 9 _______ A Mackey 4 652-3 MADANE STEINLER (26) 8 (45 8 9 ______ K Failed 1

BETTING: 11-10 General Macaritim, 5-2 Maximum Stokien, 7-2 Classic Phyer, 8-1 Bernt Offerby 4.55 WILLIAM HELL HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added 1m 2f 23220-0 MORDIC BREEZE (4) A Balley 4 9 10 ... 1021-06 DR EDGAR (1/6) [D) M Dods 4 9 4 304-00 ROUSSI (USA) (S2) D Nichola 4 9 1. 2605-0 MAFTUN (USA) (17) G Moore 4 9 0. 21023-0 DOMESIA (USA) (2) (D) M Bot 490 ... 0155-00 RUSHEN RAIDER (4) (D) K Hogg 48 9

350145- ERIC'S BETT (194) F Murphy 3 8 6... 0-340 HAMBITOOH (USA) (8) E Dunlop 3 8 4 - 9 declared -BETTHE: 9-4 Darling Clover, 4-1 Reputsi, 5-1 Herbittock, 6-1 Dr Edger, Dami-tin, 8-1 Nordic Streeze, 12-1 Martins, Eric's Sett, 18-1 Rection Ruisier

2.25 in Cahoots 2.55 Silverdale Knight 3.25 Touch A Million 3.55 Hotspur Street 4.25 General Macarthur 4.55 Darling Clover GOING: Good to firm.

GOING: Good to firm.

STALLS: Insele - straight course - course.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5t & 7f 100yds.

Regin-lend, guillening course with very soff 5t.

Regin-lend, guillening course with very soff 5t.

Resecourse is I'm W of nown on AIGS. Bus service from Beverley samon (1bit - Scarborough line) 2m, ADMISSEON: Citab 512;

dunior Citab (16 to 21-year-olds) 58; Tationaile 58; Siver Ring 53;

Course Enclosure 52; Picrale area 52 or 52; per cor, plus 52 per ocrupant, CAR PARE: Free. SIS BACING BLINKERS FIRST TIME: Turbo North (visused) (2:25); Hallbank

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: In Caboots (1.25) sest 399 rolles from A G Newcombe's Huntshaw stable in Devon. 225 F) £3,700 added 3YO 1m 2f

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10 04460- HOW COULD-I (241) T Essenby 8 9— 11 00-0 KNDOS BLUE (23) J Berhell 8 9— 12 LEBÉDINSKI Mrs P Sby 8 9— 13 0400-04 MRY 1970 (8) N Timber 8 9— 1640 PANAMA JIVE (15) 14 Johnston 89. RETTING: 3-1 Crystal Fast, 4-1 Poly My Son, 5-1 My Klad, 6-1 Cla

2.55 HYPAC HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000 added 370 7f 100yds 840-000 TOO HASTY (LA) (D) T Easterby 9 7 ... 0645-00 KENNOP (14) F Bastman 9 6....... 04450-0 KENNOP (14) M Hammond 8 13..... 00-3522 SELYERDALE KNOCKT (5) (7) K Hogg 8 11 _ Down McKeows 4

00-04 SMARTER CHARTER (12) Ms. / Brooke 59 ____ K Fallon 6
34:2-00 MILLIAN HBL LAD (25) B Makenton 8 8.____ 6 Carter 14
00254-0 CAMPORNERS (1-0) T Existing 8 7._____ W J O'Connect 11

Minimum volges: To: 10th. True handicap veligies: Down the Yard 7st 9th. resiminar responses on June 1922 responses many later on the 1922 resident of the 1922 reside Medings Hill Lack, 14-1 Kennol, Katile Konnolle, Venhon Lacky, 15-1 The Barne3.55 DON & RAYMOND GEBON HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 35yds

emapted Jonathan Martin, head of Call us free on 0500 246 246.

----If anyone can Canon can

CRICKET: Tourists disappointed with Worcestershire's tactics while defending champions Warwickshire continue to dominate

Reeve leads from the front

HENRY BLOFELD

reports from Hove Warwickshire 645-7 dec Sussex 136-5

Warwickshire are going to take some stopping again this year. They continued to sweep through Sussex like some crickcting tidal wave, and this second day was something of a personal triumph for their captain, Dermot Reeve, who played for Sussex from 1983-87.

Reeve is a most compelling cricketer. He is a captain who makes things happen, and there is great self-belief and no little skill in all that he does himself. It is sad that England have not made more use of him, especially in one-day internationals. He began the day by com-pleting the seventh hundred of

DEREK HODGSON

Match drawn

reports from Worcester

India 349-5 dec & 165

Worcestershire 476-6 dec

The future of matches between

touring teams and the counties

was put in doubt yesterday by

a frank admission from Worces-

tershire's Zimbabwean coach,

Dave Houghton. Worcester-

shire batted on into the last day

of the three-day fixture, the de-

claration not coming until they

had batted 117 overs, to India's

92 - a lead of 127 with only a

little over five hours' play left.

On this flat pitch, the match was

plaint, but binted that they

were disappointed. Houghton responded: "We've lost four competitive matches and need-

ed to get into nick. My job is to win competitive matches. This

is a practice match. They went

into this match with two seam-

The question was rhetorical,

but with Thursday's double

centurion, Graeme Hick, and

the Australian, Tom Moody,

available, in these conditions

even Damon Hill might have

for rain, losing 10 overs, would

have upset the run-rate target

sufficiently to have ruled out a

As it happened, two breaks

have set us?"

been overtaken.

ers and two leg-spinners. What added 36 runs in 35 minutes,

sort of a target would they Steven Rhodes completing a

fit season.

The Indians made little com-

declaration came, he had reached 168 in 230 balls, taking Warwickshire to the highest score made by either county in matches against each other.

By then, Reeve had clearly decided that it was going to be his day, and he elected to open the bowling in tandem with Shaun Pollock, Reeve bustled in with that slightly idiosyncratic run-up from the Sea end. and in his third over James Hall pushed forward and Dominic Ostler picked up a quick, low

catch at first slip.
It was then Pollock's turn. He knocked Martin Speight's stumps all over the place with a fast yorker, only to find that it was a no-ball. In Pollock's next over, Speight aimed to play to wide mid-on; the ball left him, took the outside edge and

ing the concept of "making a

game of it' as faded as an Ed-

wardian seaside postcard. Today the Indians visit Glou-

cestershire, who will field a

team without Courtney Walsh,

their captain and overseas pro-

essional, and Jack Russell,

their England wicketkeeper.

Various sponsors have attemp-

ted to spice up the competition

by offering money prizes. Had Worcestershire won, Tetley's would have added £7,500 to

their players' pool, about half of

Stan Collymore's reputed week-

ly wage. There is no need to

mention peanuts and monkeys.

as his team, 91 ahead overnight,

Coach questions

value of matches

his career, and by the time the his right at just above waist

height at first slip.

There was no stopping
Reeve, although he may have been a shade lucky to win an lbw decision against Alan Wells in his sixth over when Wells thrust a long way forward.

The first Reeve-less wicket fell in the last over before tea when Bill Athey, who had galloped to six in 27 overs, played forward to Graeme Welch and

was caught at third slip.
In the last session, Neil Lenham batted with composure under his yellow crash helmet, and Danny Law, a tall, beanpole of a man, defended stoutly and pulled vigorously.
Even so, the 496 Sussex

needed to save the follow-on was light years away, especially when Lenham was caught behind down the legside sweeping. Pollock was an object lesson

for all fast bowlers. He had a lovely, smooth approach to the wicket, a classical action and follow-through, and he bowls from close to the stumps, which makes his bouncer difficult to play. He his both Athey and Law on their helmets. Pollock also bowls an excellent off-stump

Although Reeve took two wickets to Pollock's one in his opening spell, Pollock's influ-ence will have contributed to his captain's success. A bowler of his ability is always going to have a big effect on the number of wickets which fall at the other

Gooch collects more records

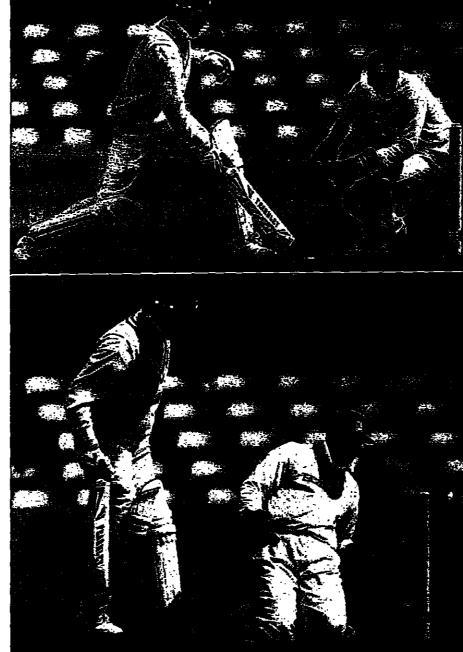
Round-up

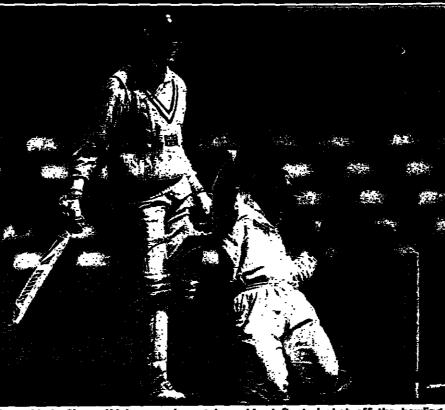
Counties no longer want nor need matches against touring Graham Gooch accumulated sides. Tourists need practice more records yesterday, some between international matches. more significant than others. as well as shorter tours and few-When four short of his century against Hampshire, the 121st of er fixtures for less wear and tear his career and his fifth in his last on the players. MCC, Minor Counties and British Universisix innings against Hampshire, he became the 12th highest ties would provide more chalscorer in cricket history, over-Moody, the Worcestershire taking Colin Cowdrey's 42,719. After the home side batted captain, did not bother to hat

on to reach 539. Essex reached 209 for 2 at the close with Gooch unbeaten on 121. Somerset's Graham Rose followed up his six wickets in the

half-century to boost his benefirst innings against Notting-Ajay Jadeja and Vikrant Rathore, India's experimental hamshire with six more in the second innings at Taunton. The openers, then took the opportunity of assembling a stand of visitors' lead, with just one 146 against the county's jourwicket remaining, is only 127. Derbyshire's new captain.

neymen seamers, Paul Thomas Dean Jones, helped steady his side at Sheffield. Replying to and Almagir Sheriyar. The faithful Stuart Lampitt Yorkshire's 561, his side lost two eventually broke through by persuading Rathore, voted man quick wickets to Chris Silverof the match for his 165 and 72 wood but the Australian hit an unbeaten 52 as Derbyshire reached 128 for 3.





Hampshire's Shaun Udal can only watch as his deflected shot off the bowling of Essex's Paul Grayson rolls back and hits the wicket

Essex won toss

Middlesex won toss

M M Betts not out

NODLESEX - Sec

Lancashire won toss OLD TRAFFORD; Leik

Overnleht: 296 for 5

Photograph: David Ashdown

Lewis proving an astute signing

DAVID LLEWELLYN

reports from The Oval Kent 225 **Surrey 360**

There can be few doubters left who do not believe that Chris Lewis was an astute signing by Surrey. He has served notice that his all-round skills have not deserted him as he helped haul his new county into the realms of respectability with his first half-century of the season.

If Lewis, who took two Kent wickets the day before, continues his current vein of form, there is no question that his international career will be res-He was positively messianic

at the crease yesterday as he and Surrey's other all-round acquisition, Brendon Julian, coped with dodgy light and awkward Kent bowling. Surrey were looking none too

steady when the pair came toether with six wickets down and 19 runs adrift of the Kent first innings.

But by the time Kent's pacey

practitioner, Julian Thompson, was walking off to deserved applause at the close of play, hav-ing returned a career-best 5 for 72, Lewis and Julian had done

They added 89 for the sev-

enth wicket before Lewis was caught -at the third attempt by Martin McCague off Carl Hooper's off-spin - having made a high-class 61 in just over an hour. and a half, with a six and half a dozen fours included in the 92

balls he faced. In that time, Lewis had mastered Kent's own beefy Big Mac McCague, who exploited the bouncy wicket to the full in 28 overs that were worthy of a lot more than the two wickets he ended up with. Julian looks a great signing

for the county. His innings of 74, which included a couple of big sixes and plenty of style and confidence all around the wicket, means that Surrey no longer bave much of a tail, and what there is left of it will give a vigorous wag.

But while praise is due to Lewis and Julian, it took a su-perlative innings of quality from Mark Butcher to hold the Surrey innings together earlier in

the day. His fall, six runs short of what would have been a fourth firstclass century, was cruel. He played over one of fuller length from the worthy doctor after

The chanceless knock by the left-handed opener marked him out for higher things later in the

Hegg in high spirits after fourth century

MICHAEL AUSTIN

reports from Old Trafford Lancashire 495 Leicestershire 98-5

Warren Hegg's winter months were spent as a barman. The drinks, probably hot chocolate, were on him last night. The Lancashire wicketkeeper made a career best 134 before pouching four dismissals as Leicestershire were out-foxed.

High spirits from Hegg were not an optical illusion because Lancashire look a buoyant force, prepared to mix the attritional bat-on-towards 500 with the flamboyant. Surely they will win something again championship title they last collected outright in 1934, a 62year blot on Old Trafford's otherwise handsome landscape. Now without Wasim Akram,

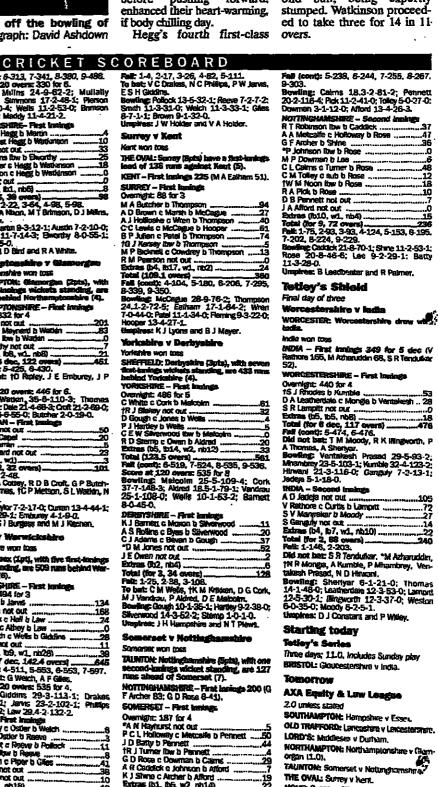
Last year, they finished fourth. they have another worthy, South Africa's Steve Elworthy, whose dismissal of his opposing overseas player, Phil Simmons, legpushing forward, hundred improved on his previous highest of 130, scored as a night watchman at Northampton nine years ago. Freedom of strokeplay, and calm authority accounted for 22 fours and a six from 199 balls.

Hegg, now 28 and a former England A tourist, arrived at 240 for 5 and his dismissal to a mis-timed, lofted drive was the penultimate one. Leicestershire had kept their cool and their thermals with the off-spinner Adrian Pierson deserving his four wickets, the innings extending into 161 laborious, wind-swept overs.

Peter Martin, like most quick bowlers, fancies his chances with the bat and supported Hegg with the ability that un run-makers. As for Leicestershire, seeing Darren Maddy and Vince Wells open was an odd experience after all the years of Tim Boon and the now injured Nigel Briers. The vision was purely temporary because Wells was taken at the wicket, pushing, and Maddy succumbed to Watkinson's second ball, being expertly stumped. Watkinson proceeded to take three for 14 in 11-

result, but what will worry the TCCB, and the sponsors, Tetin his first tour game, to pull to ley's, is that the counties are seedeep square leg. **STARTING MONDAY 13TH MAY** INDEPENDENT _european championship footballforecast 😂 Your chance to be our European Champion BE THERE FOR THE KICK-OFF! THE SUPPORTED BY FROM VAUXHALL BRITAIN'S MOST POPULAR BUTTON

Patt (comt; 5-213, 7-341, 8-380, 9-486. Score at 120 overs: 330 for 6. Bowting: Millins 24-9-62-2; Mullatly 32-9-94-7; Simmons 17-2-48-1; Pierson 34.5-7-100-4; Wells 11-2-53-0; Brimson 34.9-5-1; Maddy 11-2-2-2. LEICESTERSHIRE—First Innings V J Wells c Heigt b Martin O I Meddy of Heigt b Westfurson 10 BF Smith not out 37 V Simmons the b Blacetty 25 Britannic Assurance County Championship Second day of four: 11.0 today first-innings wickets standing behind Hampetitre (4). KAMPSHIRE – First Innings Overnight: 381 for 6 V Simmons low b Elearthy ... J.) Whiteler & Hegg b Wathenson R K Plerson & Hegg b Wathenson A N Aymes Row b Such 113 V K M Benjamin c Rollins b Williams 117 D Udal b Grayson 28 A D Matchilly. Bowling: Martin 9-3-12-1; Austin 7-2-10-0; Wattenson 11-7-14-3; Electric 8-0-55-1; Keedy 4-3-5-0. Unspires: H D Bird and R A White. Northemptonshire wan tass n b Mibum NORTHAMPTONSHIRE - First innings Overright: 332 for 4 R J Warren not out D J Capel o Meynend b Watten K M Curran live b Watten Middlesex v Durham Taylor. Store at 120 overs: 446 for 6. Bourling: Wation, 35-8-110-3; Thomas 27-3-118-0: Date 21-4-68-3; Coft 21-2-69-0; Kendinck 16-6-55-0; Bucher 2-0-19-0. LORD'S: Middlenex (4pts), with a rans sheed of Durtage (5). MIDDLESEX - First Innings 191 (M W Getbrig 74; M J Foster 4-21). DURBHAM - First Innings Overraght: 114 for 6 M J Foster 5 France 9 IC W Scott c Pooley b Fraser 59 IS Bolling C Carr 5 Johnson 14 S J E Brown b Follett 15 S P James not our 50 H Monts b Capel 20 A Dale b Curriar 5 M P Maynard not Out 22 Exchas (62, w1) 3 Total (for 2, 32 overs) 101 Felt 1-33, 2-48. To last: P A Cotrey, R D B Croft, G P Butcher, S D Thomas, 1C P Metson, S L Watten, N M Kendott, S D Romas, 1C P Metson, S L Watten, N M Kendott, S D Romas, 1C P Metson, S L Watten, N M Kendott, S D Romas, 1C P Metson, S L Watten, N M Kendott, S D Romas, 1C P Metson, S L Watten, N M Kendott, S D Romas, 1C P Metson, S L Watten, N M Kendott, S D Romas, 1C P Metson, S L Watten, N M Kendott, S D Burgless, and M J Righen. Sentence of Mineral Polyables. Freser 13.2-5-47-3; Rowling: Freser 23.2-5-47-3; Johnson 11-3-47-2; Ray 18-4-33-3; Fotes: 14-2-65-2; Westes: 6-4-10-0; Tufnel: 4-3-2-0. isex v Warwickshire Warwickshire won toss HOVE: Suspect (Lpt), with five first-lonings wickests standing, one 509 runs behind Warwickshira (6). Patt. 1-27: 2-32, 3-133, To Stat: 1 D Carr. Nt R Brown, R L Johnson, A R C Freser, D Follett, P C R Tufnett, Bowling: Brown 20-5-43-1; Seass 10-2-42-0; Foster 17-17-32; Bolling 7-3-60. Umplines: A Clarkson and J H Harrts, Lançashire y Leicestershire N J Lenham c Piper b Glies D.R C Law not out



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Andrews Market

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SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Essen OLD TRAFFORD: Lancasters v Lincastershire. NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Glary organ (1.0). THE OVAL: Surrey v Nert. NOVE: Sussex v Warwickshire SHEFFIELD: Yorkshite v Derbyshito.

Around the tables there was much speculation about his acceptance speech. Would it continue the nautical theme of his last public utterance?

There are several candidates as a collective noun to describe football writers - a hack, an anorak, a crate but on Thursday evening at the annual Footballer of the Year award dinner it was clearly a congregation. The flock had gathered in the ballroom of a London hotel to pay their respects to the man they had voted as the finest footballer in the land and, for the sec-

ond year running, he wasn't British. Indeed, on Europe Day, as The Sun encouraged its readers to turn their back on Brussels and fly the Union Jack, it was instructive to see the increasingly international texture of our national game reflected by the guests gathered for what the Foothall Writers' Association chairman called: "the most glittering social occasion in the football calendar"

(he obviously doesn't get out much). Whereas, as recently as five years ago, the only impenetrable accent would have been Peter Beardsley's, everywhere you looked this year there were foreigners struggling with the strange nuances of the English language (and that was before the port). Lennart Johansson, for instance, the president of Uefa, football's European governors, gave a short address. Now Johansson may be well versed in English, but he retains a problem with his Js. Which is fine when it comes to pronouncing his name "Yohansson", but be-

came somewhat unfortunate when

he started praising the FA politburo

sitting around him for "the tremen-

dous yob that is going into the European Championships".

Even Ruud Gullit, a Dutchman who speaks better English than most of the primary school children in the London borough of Islington.

looked lost during the speeches.

The player who has made more capital out of the language gap than anyone else in the game, however, was the evening's guest of honour. Eric Cantona, the only man in the room not wearing a tie, sat in the middle of the top table, his head glistening after an altercation with Vinnie Jones's barber. Around the tables there was much speculation about his acceptance speech. Would it have been scripted by the copy-writers at Nike's advertising agency? Would it continue the nautical theme of his last public utterance? Would Lemart nsson get any of the gags?

Jim White



ON SATURDAY

We were to find out after the presentation of the award, a gong few could gainsay after his contribution to English football this season. Actually, several of the gathering did

gainsay it. Brian Woolnough, of The Sun, who has fulminated in print against his colleagues for giving their prize to a man he appears to believe is the spawn of Satan, remained in his chair throughout a warm standing ovation, arms fold-ed, mouth set in a scowl, a gesture which it seems unlikely the recipi-

ent of his distaste noticed. When the speech came it was a bit like Bolton Wanderers' Premiership challenge: over very quickly. This is it in full: "Critics say some things. I throw them where they deserve, down the toilet. When people say nice things, I thank them. I wish good health of everyone in the world. That is more important even than the...

And this is where the confusion set in: it was unclear whether he said

"money" or "morning". As soon as he had finished, huddles formed to swap earnest textual analysis. If he had said "money" then this was simply a trite generalisation. But had he said "morning" then this lent the speech all sorts of Blakeian texture. Most observers (though probably not Woolnough) gave him the ben-efit of the doubt and opted for the latter interpretation: after all, why betray the image we love to believe in of the French footballing philosopher, the import who contrasts so

vividly with our own dear Vinnie?. As this was Europe Day, there had obviously been some Franco-Ger-man talks conducted recently, and Cantona had clearly taken some advice from Jürgen Klinsmann. Last year, after Klinsmann scooped the

award, he was faced with a queue the length of the Mersey Tunnel of supine, pitiful, salivating hacks seeking his autograph. For over an hour he scribbled away until, by the time I got to the front of the queue, he looked dead-eyed with exhaustion.

None of that for Eric. He left the room immediately after receiving his gong, accompanied, as always, by his minder, Alex Ferguson, the two of them leaving as the after-dinner speaker, Bob "The Cat" Bevan, rose to his feet.

I'm surprised they've gone just as I'm about to speak." Bevan said. I can only assume Eric and Alex didn't realise I was up here. Serves me right for wearing grey.

Mind you, I'm not sure Lennart Johansson got the joke.

Harrington cuts margin for error

ANDY FARRELL reports from Madrid

Padraig Harrington has discovered the secret of coping backs with Club de Campo's troublesome greens: to putt as infrequently, and over as little terrain, as possible. At the 17th he nearly eliminated the necessity to do so at all.

Harrington hit his eight-iron tee shot at the 163-yard par three to 10 inches, and so just missed out on a car, worth around £10,000, from the sponsors. Did he know about the prize? "Well, there was a car at the back of the tec-box, and even I can put two and two together," said the 24year-old qualified accountant from Dublin.

During five years of exams, while he played in three Walker Cup matches, the only practising Harrington intended to do was on a golf course. His second # round 64 vesterday not only encut of his rookie season - the record is thought to be Lee Westwood's twelve in 1994 - but gave him a three-shot half-way lead in the Peugeot Spanish Open.

I knew I needed to improve my game before I turned professional and it is easier to do it as an amateur," said Harrington, who has won £40,145 to date to virtually secure his tour card. "On tour, every day you have to do your best and play with what you have." Harrington, who uses both

the conventional and the cackhanded putting method as he feels the need, required only 25 putts, five of them for singleputt pars on the front nine. "The eight birdies do not tell the whole story," he said.

"I struggled on the front nine, then everything seemed to click from the 12th. I am delighted to sec my name at the top of the leaderboard, but the first two

days are the easy ones. It will be

tough over the weekend.
"It is nice to make my ninth cut in a row, but I know there will be a run of missed cuts sometime. I hope there will not be as many as nine. But I am not setting any more targets. I am not expecting great things."

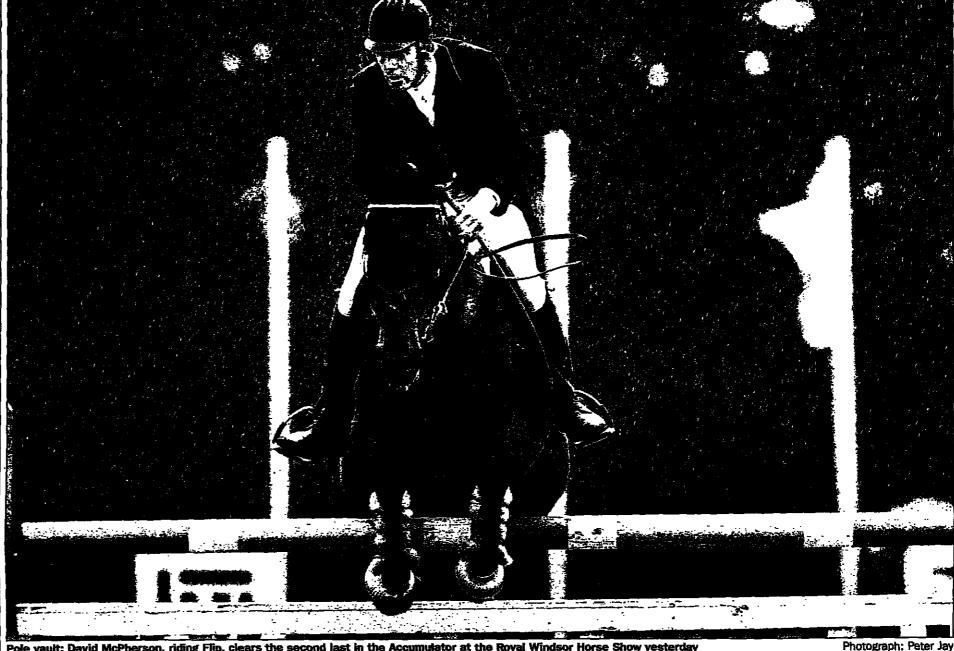
And what of the greens? "I putted solid yesterday and well today, so what can I say?" Harrington missed from six feet at the last to match the course record, although it would not have counted because the tournament used preferred lies.

After his press conference, Harrington, eager to learn, lingered to listen to the com-ments of Seve Ballesteros. These proved to be nothing more than that he drove the ball well, his wrist was not troubling him and the improvement he seeks is coming slowly. A round of 70 meant he had made the cut for the only the third time in seven events this year.

Iain Pyman, the overnight hours sleep before his 7.45am tee time after eating something that disagreed with him on Thursday night. A five-over 77, 11 shots worse than his opening effort, left Pyman nine behind Harrington.

His playing partner, the Welshman Marcus Wills, who has missed his last four cuts, was one of four men to improve to seven under par with a round of 70. He shares second place with Scotland's former Ryder Cup player, Gordon Brand Jnr, who shot a five-under 67, Australia's Peter O'Malley and Per Haugsrud of Norway.

Wills, 23, who regained the tour card he lost after the 1994 season at the qualifying school, missed three times from inside three feet to emphasise the unpredictability of the greens, despite the fact he was playing in the first group of the day. Scores, Sporting Digest, page 27



Pole vault: David McPherson, riding Flip, clears the second last in the Accumulator at the Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday

Mac makes it two in a row on eager Gringo

Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Windsor

Emma-Jane Mac won the national women's title for the second time in succession (and the third overall) when she mount of Joe Turi. The borse left rode her long-standing partner, Gringo, to secure the Ladies' Championship. The 17-year-each round. Victory still seemed old gelding was the only horse possible as the headstrong

to jump two clear rounds with-in the time allowed, defeating Lisa Murohy on Waysider and last year's runners-up, Di Lampard and Abbervail Dream.

Murphy, who has an artificial left leg, gets a remarkable time from little Waysider, the former all the fences intact, but was marginally over the time in

row and a Trophy event to close the meeting. Miget Fry, the chaoping, leads the field in his Volto White. Of the remaining seven races for cars, the Formu-la Salcon class tops the bill. The popularity of this

new category for high powered saloon cars is reflected in the size of the entry at Pembrey. Watch out for the 5.1 life Vauchell Carlton of Peter Stevens and the 54 ford Cosworths opposing him.

Gringo went charging into the ing charge on the approach to earlier Accumulator on Manlast fence, before Mac's mount the 10ft 6in derby bank and cuso, a horse that he bought five settled the issue with a confident leap for victory.

Next weekend Gringo will be jumping in the Dutch show at Eindhoven, where he won the derby two years ago. The old warrior has conneted in virtually every type of contest, but Mac has not tackled the Silk Cut Derby at Hickstead with him. She has visions of Gringo tak-

leaping straight off the top of it. Mac won last year on the mare Diamond, who has since had two operations - one on a chipped bone, the other to remove an ovary which had two

tumours on it. It is hoped that

stallion, Randi, who is ridden by John Whitaker.

years ago at the same time as his possible Olympic mount, It's Otto. Billington, now 41, has never had Olympic ambitions before but he will certainly be thinking of Atlanta when he rides It's Otto on the British month. "I think my horse is that

the mare is now in foal to the

ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW: Ladles' Championship: 1 Gringo (E./ Meci dest, 53.5 lace; 2 Waysider (I. Mur-phy) 1.5 fautis, 61.66; 3 Abbervall Dream (D Lampard) 4 faults, 45.09. Ac-Dream (D Lampard) 4 faults, 45.09. Accumulator: 1 Mancuso (G Billington) 36/ts, 43.01.sers; 2 Harlem (B Williams) 38, 45.54; 3 Quick Star (N Sketton) 36, 45.57. Harrods International Driving Grand Prix (standings after dressage): Horse Teams: 1 G Bowman, 41.0 penalties; 2 P Thomas, 51.0; 3 R Margave, 51.7. Pomy teams: 1 G Frith, 42.7; 2 P Gammel, 50.0; 3 Dute of Edinburgh, 59.7. Hermes Dressage Grand Prix 1 Enfant (V Thompson) 66.67%; 2 Mester Mouse (J Jackson) 65.53%; 3 Diklatos (J Jackson) 65.53%; 3 Diklatos Mouse (J. Jackson) 65,53%; 3 Diklolog

This weekend

BOXING: ABA National Youth Finals (Birming-nam). This is the second year of the champer-shps for 17 and 18-year-old boxers. Competition is in two sessions: 2.30pm and 6.30pm. Admission: 16. Fox Hodies Lessum Centre, Sminey Road, Acocks Green, Birming-ham is agroposted from Apocks Green yellage. ham is signposted from a Tel. 0121 778 4112).

(Tel. 0121 778 4112).
CLAY PRIGON SHOOTING: English Open Sporting Chargeorough! John Badwei, the world champion, and the 19-year old Pacharl Faulds, who represents Brisan at the Opinify Games, are emong the line-up. The learner 15 per cent of shootins from the first bur day go through to the first bornomes, Specialting is free. Shugborough Shooting School, Oakedge Park, Wolseley Bridge, Stationdstate, is off ASCI Rugsley to Station read. (Tet 01889 881:391).

is on ASSS Talgary in Scientia robust technology. See St. 2013. CHILLING: Women's Nanonal 10-maie Time Tindic er sets out at 2.01pm, Serah Philipps, the champon from Deseade, starts last of the 79-stong feed. The sant on the ASSO is 500 yards south-west of the process ASSO is 500 yards south-west of the process of 500 yards south-west of the process and the series of ASSO is 500 yards south-west of the process and the series the turn at 4 Measthor roundabour. The Brissh is On ASSO at Levens Bridge.

EQUESTIPANISSIB: Royal Windsor Horse Show Horse Parks. The since combinates today from Sum, finishing tomorous and includes show jumping, cross-country, carriage dividing and designed. Admission: 28 adults (15 after 4pm). 15 OAPs, 22 children under-16. Reserved seaso.

Saye. Admission: 18 adults (15 after April, 15 OAPs, 12 children under 16, Reserved sens for Roodin performances (*Tron 15, No dags admitted. Ametion so of MA and follow signs to showground, Railway stations: Windsor Central or Windsor Reverside. or whose reversible. Gurningship, The four-somes start at Barn today, with eight singles matches in the afternoon from 1.30pm. This

torr on A30. (Tet: 01344 21881).

MICOERN PENTATHLONE British Modern
Triathon Champoniships (Milton Keynes).

Four hundrod otheres from the age of 11 to
01 have qualified in 14 classes. The semmaning
and shooting disciplines take place in Statitoributy Laisure Centre from 9.30cm boday. To
MICOTON the resempt described by the 4st the orbuty leaves Centre from 9.30om today. Tomorrow the rumming event will be held at the
Peace Pagoda, Willen Park, at 10am. Stantonbuty Leleure Centre. Purbeck. Militon
Acytes, is reached from sunction 14, MIL.
BACINIS (Falt meetings in capitals): BATH:
Cub £12: Tattersuls £8; Saler Ring £4; Course
£1. [First race 2.10]. BEVERLEY: Cub £12;
Jamor Cub (16 to 21-year-pits) £8; Tattersals £8; Saler Ring £3; Course £0-closurs £2;
Proce area £2 or £2 per car, plus £2 per ocback. (2.25). LINGHTELD: Members £16;
Gandstand £12; Salver Ring £6, £2.15).
WOLVERHAMPTONE Cub £15; Tatter-sals £6;
OUP membors of Demond Cub £4; Viewing
Restaurat £25.90 noutling entrance and
med. (7.0). Warwick: Cub £12 [16 to 24jes-olds £6; Tatter-sals £5, £5-40.
Warrestag Members £12.50; 113.45).
RMILTINE: Steyr-Dominer-Puch Many, Notion4 Rally field of Mann. The third cound of he

PICK OF THE DAY THIS WEEKEND / Motor the

Weish Festival Rembery The Weish Fischied of Mourisport at the Pembrey of the State of the entry at Pembrey. Weich out for cult this weekend offers a yaded programme of raising from trucks to salconicars, singles seaters and classic sportscars. The Statement hinds are the Week Mouris of Economic Community of the Statement of Statement of the Statement of National Sta

ECORCE. IN Lart 19-bit 19-bit

10,30em body and tornomous. Pytile International SYC, Sit Annes, Lancashire.

SHERTY Manne Herses Festivel (Fort William).
The first semi-final at 112em brings together
Lochaber and Slage-Wester Ross, in the second semi-final at 13,30pm, an under-17
representative metals between North and
South continues the districtment at 2,30pm, and
South continues the districtment at 2,30pm, and
Admission: £3 adults, £2 QAPs, £1 children.
An And Park, Fort William, Highland region.
WINDSURFING: BWA National Championships
Sames (Poverneys Bay). High-wind racing is the
brief of the British Windsurfing Association,
though the championships include a light-wind
sense to ensure record whatever the conditions.
Competition starts at 10,30em today and tomonous. The ripe set is at the Sealing Out-on
the vectors add of Poverney Bay, East Sussex, and east of Soverigh Manna.
WIESTILING: British se sail or Chempionships
(Solfort). Competition in the rine weight citieigenes from 52/g to 1300g starts at 112m.
Members of the British team compete as part
of their preparation for the Clympe Games. Admission; £2 adults, £1 children, Westling Academy, £1 Great Closes; Street, Safford, a one
rible from Manchester Victoria strium, ffel:
O161/832 9209).

TOMOGEROW

TOMOREYCLING: MCN British Superbike Champlonship (Snettertor). Practice in the fourth round starts at 9em, with the first race at 11.5m. Admission: £12 adults, £1 children. Snetterton Circus, Norwich, Norfolk, is between Thetford and Antieborough on A11 (01953) 8873031.

\$4 (6.05). Towester Members £12: Tattersels 58 Course £4 (bz plus all coupants £15) (5.50). Twesters YORK: County Stant £20, three-day bedge £50 (16.25) sers for £20, three-day bedge £20 (16.25) sers for £20, three-day bedge £28; Siver Rang £5, 2-day bedge £20 (NAPs £2.50) delily; Couse £3, 3-day bedge £50 (NAPs £2.50). Under-15s free all enclosures. Concessors for parties of 20-plus £2.00. Chapethone £15 (17.45). Tetherealis £10 (NAPs £55). Course £5 (NAPs £3) £1.45). Wedgesegley YORK: as Tuesday £2.00. Hereford: Cup £12. Tatteseals £5; course enclosure £5 (1.45). Hundingdoor Members £12. Pasticks £8; Course £4 (6.10). Pertite Members £12. Tatteseals £19 (2.05). Threading YORK: as Tuesday £40; Course £2 (6.25). Threading YORK: as Tuesday £4, Course £3 (6.10). Pertite Members £12.50; Tattersels £8; Course Enclosure £4 (2.10). Authors (fulless evening meeting); Queen Mother Stand £12. Coursy Stand £8 (1.65). Folkestone: Club £12 funder-15s free); Tatterels £6 (5.67). Folkestone: Club £12 funder-16s free); Tatterels £6 (5.67). (Lodies half-pure both enclosured (S.45). Polles-strous: Club £12 Aurder 16s free); Tatisraals 28.50; Course Enclosure £4, plus £4 for each occupert (6.0). Partite as Wednelsday (1.50). Principy INEWESURY: Members £13 (Unifors up to 21 years half-pure); [lettersale £8: Saker Brig £3 (0.49 half pure); [lettersale £8: Saker Brig £3 (0.49 half pure); [lettersale £8: Grandstand end Paddoch £10 118 to 25-year-olds £9); Saker Ring £3 (2.15). THERSIC Dub £12: Tatisrasile £8 (0.49 £4): Family Enclosure £3 (0.49 £1, £50). Accompanied Linder-18s free (2.0). Newton Abboth Tettersale £8.50; Course £4. Accompanied under-18s free (6.0). Stratford: Cub £12: Tatisrasile £8; Course £4 (6.15). NEXT WEEKEND

NEXT WEEKEND
POUTBALL's Saturday; International Islandly, England v Hungary (3.0) for Hembey Stackern). Tenments Sociosh Quip finish Hearts v Rangars (3.0) for Hembey Stackern). Tenments Sociosh Quip finish Hearts v Rangars (3.0) for Hungary Leader Partil.
RICESY UndoN: Saturdays Peacs Internationsh Heart V Bacharitars (3.0) for Landown Pood).
RICESY Leader Saturdays Sources Super Leader.
Wholengion v Weight (7.30), Standays Source Super Leader Hearts (3.0), Standays Source Super Leader Hearts (3.0), Standays Concessive V
CRECKET: Sandays ANA South and Land Leaders

(partill Leaders Sandays ANA Sources (Chester
le Street): Escar v Heart (Bod); Clamorgan v De
polyther (Cardiff); (Fourcessarshire v Somerset

(Partill): Leaders series v Words Sandays me (Licita
les); Noting-american v Lancaschus; (Inter Bingla); NEXT WEEKEND (Bresid): Lectures via via constrainte la Somerset (Bresid): Lectures via via reseture (Lecture): Notinghamshare via reseture (Bresidon): Tour March (one day): Miscoleset vinde (Lord's). RACINGE Saturitary: Hallet Tout. Cuth £12; Grandstand and Paddock £7 (£4 for OAPs, deabled and saudents, £10 for couples): accom-

JUST THE TICKET: a weekly guide to what's on where for the spectator poried under-16s free all engineures (6.20). LINGTRELD: Members £13, Textersale £9, Salver Ring £5 (6.0). MEMBELRY: Members £15 (Junoro up to £1 years holf-price): Textersale £10; Salver Ring £3 (0.0Ps half price). (2.0). THERSÉS: es Findey £2.15). Benegior Paddoct £9; Course £4 (under-16s free all enclosures) (2.10). Releachaste Members £12; Grandstand and Paddoct £9; Course £4 (accombanied under-16s free all onciosures).

and Peddook St. Course & laccompanied un-dor-16s free all encircums. (6.10). Sectionals as Monday (2.25). Seeding: NEWELRY: as Fri-cay (2.0). REPORE Club 1.12; facessate 58: Sa-ver Ring £4; Course £2 (accompanied under-16s free all encircums) (2.15).

today, for one of the great Flat races which has snawned imitations from Kenwhich has spawned immedions normed tucky to Hong Kong. The Derby, run on Epsom Downs, will again be held on a Saturday efter moving from the tradi-tional Wednesday last year and a huge crowd is expected on 8 June. For particular value, the cost of park-

For particular value, the cost of park-ing on the Hill in the certite of the course is down this year to £10 from £20 for a car and all occupants. Pedestrians will continue to have free admission and ar-tractions include a large viewing screen for the racing and the opening day of the European football championship. Vodaphone Derby, Epsom Downs, 8 June.

Vadaphone Derby, Epsom Downs, 8 June. First race 1.45pm, Derby 2.25pm. Enquires: The Club Secretary, United Reco-curses (Holdings) Ltd, The Grandstand, Epsom Downs, Sumey HT18 510 (Booldings: 01372 470047; General 01372 726311). Admission: Welton Enclosure 55 on day. Tat-tenham Enclosure 57 on day. Lorsdale En-closure and Paddock £10 on day. Grandstand £19 £17 IV booled before 24 Mayn, £24 16 to 25-year-oldin Resoned seas £55 in adminol. Queen's Stand (membership £90, further badges (up to avo) £75. Derby restaurans: Members' sold out. Club en-Derly meeting membership 250, human badges up to avaj 275.
Derby restaurants: Members sold out. Out-en-clourer vay limited weekbally in Phone's Lawn Marquee (£139 plus W7 per person).
Rait South Central and South West Trains from enquiries 017: £28 5100): London Waterboo to Epsom (50-35miq); London Worden to Epsom (50-35miq); London Worden to Epsom Downe (47min); London Charing Cross to Tatterham Comer (45-55miq); Violaria to Tatterham Comer (52-min).
Heliepport and Autorito Services 13d (01279 \$50750): 15min from the London Helipport, Butersay, Colonial, Asox and Sundown Part meacurage, in partie of Epsom Recoourse, with transport to Garandstand.

Details of forthcoming events with information on tickets and venues should be sent to: The Sports Desk, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Fax: 0171 293 2894.

Compiled by Paul Maher

Geoff Billington won the WEEKEND FIXTURES TODAY Football

ra cur Final. Liverpool v Manichester United (3.0) -(et Wembley Stadium) AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Divisions West Harr v Ordord Utd (31.0) (at Credwell Heath training ground). Rugby Union

FA CUP FINAL

SRU TENNENTS' 1556 CUP FINAL Watsoniaus v Hawick (3.0) (at Murrayliold, Edinburgh) SRU TENNENTS' 1566 BOWL FINAL SRU TENNENTS' 1556 SHIELD FAIAL HEINEGEN WELSH LEAGUE First Divisio

SAVE AND PROSPER MIDDLESEX CHARI-TY SEVENS: First match 11.20, final 6.30 Hockey Wonten's Under-19 TournyAntent Finals: Harleston Magoles, Otton and West Warwick, Bradford Swithenbank, East Grinstead, Por-tished (9-30-5.50) (at Million Keynes Sta-

Speedway 7,30 unless stated 7.30 United States Predict v Belle Vise; Covertly v Saindon; Cradely Heath & State Covertly v Saindon; Cradely Heath & State Control Monacoles; Eastbourne v Reading.

Other sports AMERICAN POOTBALL: World League: Am stediam v London Monarchs; Frankfurt v Scot tish Claymores. BOXUNG: British cruise T Dunstan (Hackney, holider) v (Shefileki) (York Hall, Bethnel Gre CYCLINE: Warren's National 10-mile Time Ya-el Championahip (Cumbria).

GOLF: Engand v France (Sunningdale); Scot-tish PGA Championship (Dalmahoy), **TENNIS: LTA Spring Satellite (Lee-on-Soleni)** TOMORROW

EQUESTRIANISM: Royal Windsor Horse

Football 3.0 unless stated ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE PROMOTION PLAY-OFFS SEMI-FINALS, PRST LEE FIRST DIVISION

good, as long as I can cling on," SECOND DIVISION Bradford City v Bis Crewe v Notes Cou

THEO DIVISION Colchester v Physical Hereford v Darlington BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PROMOTION PLAY-OFF FIRS Partick Thistin v Dundon Ut FA CARLEGERG VASE FINAL Brigg Yourn v Cathero (at Wembley Stadium) CARLSBERG PUB CUP Float; Grimeshorps

Vale v Cornan's Quay Nomads (at the Recrestion Ground, Caerses). FAI HARP LAGER SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP Final replay: St Patrick's Athletic v Shelbourne (at Dalymount Park, Dublin).

Rugby League 3.0 unless stated

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford ICONES SUPER LEAGUE: Casceror V ordrington Down (5.30); St Halens v Lon-on Broncos (6.01; Warmington v Sheffield agles, First Division: Devictory v White pages First Division: Devictory V Williams wer); Hull v Salford (3.15); Keighley ougans v Featherstone Rovers (3.30); naver; Hua V Saloro S.J.S; regions Cougars (3.30; Velekefield Traity v Rochdale Homets (3.30); Welkefield Traity v Rochdale Homets (3.30); Widnes v Huddersfield. Second Division: Brantley v Swinton (5.0); Carlisto v Prescot; Donosater v Hull Kingston Rovers; Leigh v York South Wales v Chorley (6.0) for Aberturn PURN (1974)

Hockey WOMEN'S CLUB MATCH: Slough v lpswich (2.30) (at Cressex, High Wycombe).

Speedway PREMIER LEAGUE: Scottish Monarchs estrough (6.30) (at Glasgow). CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Eastbourne v Sittingbourne (1.0); Mildenhall v Berwick (3.0); Swindon v Arena Essex (6.0). CONFERENCE LEAGUE CHALLENGE: LIN-

Other sports CYCLING: Tour of the Marshes (Kent).

EQUESTRIANSSM: Windsor Horse show. GOLP: England v France (Sunningdale); Scot-MOTORCYCLING: British Superbile Champ-MOTOR RACING: Kodak British Empire Tro-TEMBS: LIA Soring Satellite (Lee-on-Solent)

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

Before that I was like a child, sort of waiting to do the next stupid thing. But what I have learned is not to make the same mistake twice. Eric Cantona on his kung-fu kick and the community service sentence it earned him.

Will I be strengthening my squad? Well, put it this way. Manchester United have just won the League again and they will be strengthening their side Ron Atlanson, Coventry City's manager.

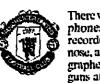
They could have taken the mickey out of us when they were 52-0 ahead - but they didn't. Jon Callard, of Bath, reflects on the union side's meeting with Wigan under

rugby league rules. I still think I have got another two or three left in me. As long as I still have the buzz for the big tournaments, I will cany on playing. Stephen Hendry after sealing, a record-equalling sixth

world snooker title. I can't believe it. Nothing surprises me in football but I certainly didn't see this one coming. that's for sure. Barry Fry. after being sacked as manager of Birmingham

When Alex Ferguson spoke to Glenn Moore before the start of the season (left), he remained confident despite enduring a turbulent summer. The two talked again this week, with the Manchester United manager entitled to a certain sense of vindication

Success tempers Ferguson's famous fury



phones and tape recorders under his nose, a dozen photographers firing flash guns at his feet, two score reporters and six TV crews in front of his face. You could almost see Alex Ferguson thinking: "It's a long way from : "king to one bloke with a notebook at East Stirling."

Later, when the madding crowd had departed with their soundbites and quotes, Ferguson admitted: "I do think that sometimes. The most daunting time was when I was managing Scotland in the Mexico World Cup. I went into this big mom and it was just packed with media; there were so many of them, it was unbelievable. I've been immune to it ever since." Wednesday's open day at Old Trafford was, therefore, just another day in the career of this remarkable

'You can look back at records but for me the next one is important. Success is a fleeting thing'

ferred upon him in some quarters since Manchester United's title triumph on Sunday and, though challenges remain, it will not be too generous an assessment if United de-feat Liverpool today to secure an unparalleled second double.

That the season is ending in glory is even more impressive when one recalls that it began in turmoil. Wednesday was not just a long way from East Stirling, it was a long way

from August.
It is difficult to remember now but, back then. Ferguson was under pressure. Mark Hughes, Andrei Kanchel-skis and, bafflingly, Paul Ince had been sold and no one bought. Even supporters' groups were wondering if he had lost the plot. Only one man seemed to believe it was all under control: Ferguson himself.

On opening day's eve, a relaxed and confident Ferguson told The Independent: "Just because three players have left, the tabloids have made it an end-of-the-world situation. I do not feel threatened. Why should 1? People say I should have bought a I know he is going to be. These are player, but it is very difficult to get



Reasons to be cheerful: Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, is in a relaxed frame of mind as he contemplates a second

one who can get in our team." The following day, a youthful United side conceded three goals to Aston Villa in the opening 45 minutes at Villa Park and, one wondered, is it really impossible to strengthen this team? As Gary Neville said this week: "I don't think any other man-

ager would have put the faith in the young players he has done." Ten months on and Ferguson's faith in youth has been vindicated, along with his trust in experience. He had also said that day at The Cliff: "I expect great things from my good players: [Gary] Pallister: [Peter] Schmeichel: [Roy] Keane. That is the backbone of my side. I hope [Ryan] Giggs emerges to be the great player

important players. If we are

PALLISTER

FOUR FOUR ONE ONE

HUGHES

FOUR FOUR TWO

ONE TWO ONE

ONE 2 ONE

THOMAS

SAUNDERS

going to win the League, we need them all performing."

Apart from Pallister, who has played well but too rarely, they have not let him down. Schmeichel and Keane have been the foundations on which Giggs, with Eric Cantona, have

engineered the championship success.

"Schmeichel has had his best-ever season," Ferguson said this week.
"He has produced his saves when it really mattered. It is easy to make saves at 4-0 up, he has made saves at important times, at 0-0, or 1-0, Even at Bolton [where United won 6-0] he made two great saves before

"Keane is one of the best players in Britain. I would not swap him for anyone. He has a great football brain, can run all day and never gives

the ball away. Giggs has been terrific. He has been injury free and matured

Looking back at that interview, there is just one discordant note. Ferguson also "expected great things from Andy Cole". But that is balanced by David Beckham's emergence for, in August, Ferguson admitted the one arca he was seeking to strengthen was on the right-wing. He may still be looking but Beckham has filled in more than adequately.

"I think Beckham can be a wideright player of a different type," Ferguson said. "He has good running power and can cross the hall well. Obviously he doesn't have Kanchelskis' pace and that is something we have missed but he gives us other things." Ferguson will be looking at

potential signings during the Euro-pean Championship. As ever, he is already planning ahead. "You can been all week. His team have been look back at records but for me the next one is important. Success is a fleeting thing, a brief moment when the referee's whistle goes. Then it is

on to the next one."

Thus, on Monday morning he was back at his desk at 9.30 speaking, with barely disguised relish, of the need to bring the players in for training that day to "run out of their legs what they put into them last night". For Ferguson himself it was just "a couple of glasses of champagne" though, in the wake of Sunday's mumph on Teesside, he did put our scheduled conversation back a couple of hours - he is normally

He was in chirpy mood, as he has

thought they were all right but, when I saw them perform, I knew it had bitten them too deep. It's a major difference this year. I'm not being over-confident but Roy Evans will know what I'm talking about."
Ferguson often talks about his

team in paternal terms. This is not musual among football managers but at least Ferguson, at 54, is of an age where it sounds appropriate. To the younger players especially he is, Phil Neville said, "a father figure".

Phil Neville said, "a father figure".

These days he is a protective parent rather than the intimidating one of the past. Football managers are often noted for their tempers but Ferguson's is legendary even by the standards of the genre. He once exploded in the Aberdeen dressing room, kicking the laundry basket as he did so. A pair of underpants landed on the head of the player next to the one he was laying into. The to the one he was laying into. The

'I don't think you'd ever say he was relaxed, but he's mellowed. That's is age, his experience

adorned player was too scared to move and sat rigid until Ferguson, spotting him, berated the unfortunate for wearing them. "Getting on the wrong side of his temper is not the best thing you can do," said Lee Sharpe, with a hint of knowing

While that temper is still there - and can be turned on with alarming speed it is less frequently seen these days.
"He's calmed down," Sharpe added. Brian McClair, one of Ferguson's first signings, said: "I don't think you'd ever say he was relaxed, but he's mellowed. I think that's his age, his experience, his achievements.

Whatever today's result, only the Champions' League remains absent from Ferguson's roster of success. "I think we need a couple of players," he said. "It is a big challenge. I think if we can improve tactically and get proper preparation we will be all

"His great strength is his single-mindedness." McClair added. "His ability to make decisions and stick to them. He's got real self-belief that what he's doing is right. His record suggests he usually is."

but there was nothing we could do. Come the middle of the week I Maturing Fowler in a rush to achieve more goals

equally upbeat; all but Cantona and Cole mixing happily with the press

on Wednesday. The contrast with this

corresponding week last season has

been marked, an indication that,

while success may be fleeting, fail-

make preparation much easier,"

Ferguson admitted. "Whatever team I play I think they will enjoy it and

be confident. Last year we were flat

after losing the League. The dressing-room right after the game at West Ham last season was terrible. The di-

rectors and myself were patting their heads and trying to lift them, because

we knew we had the final coming up.

Winning the championship will

ure has a unhappy longevity.



GTCGS

BURROWS

Liverpool's training ground, Melwood, was not unusual in that there was a group

of people wanting to meet Robbie Fowler. Their purpose? "We've come to present him with a trophy," one said to a sceptical security man. With exaggerated weariness, he noted a name and shut the Getting hold of Fowler is al-

most an industry in Liverpool. We hear all sorts of stories," another club employee explained later. You know what they're like

round here. They'll try anything on. Robbie must have around a thousand cousins and a hundred brothers and sisters." As it happened, the callers

this time were genuine and proudly had their photographs iaken with their old boy. The trophy was for player of the year, circa 1990, for a boys' team that had also included Everton's

Tony Grant.
"Funny thing is, we all thought Tony would be the one," a man from the presen-tation party said. "He's doing fine, he's a good player, but Robbie's unbelievable."

It is something Premiership defenders would reluctantly agree with. For years their bat-tered senses could take comfort that Ian Rush might still be deadly but at least he was getting old. No one could be as good as Rushic, surely? Then Fowler came along, suggesting he might even be better.

Rush, himself, noted it straight away. "He was 14 or 15," he said. "but the first time he got the ball he turned and made space for himself. That's a skill only a natural striker

Since scoring on his debut at Fulham in September 1993, this instinct has yielded 85 goals in less than three seasons. He has also been voted Young Player of the Year twice by his fellow professionals and capped by England. On top of that, if he strikes against Manchester United today at Wembley, he will become the first player to score in every round of the FA

Guy Hodgson on the young Anfield striker whose progress has astounded



Fowler: Cause for celebration Photograph: Bradley Ormesher

Cup since Peter Osgood in

Bandwagons are to be avoided, but Fowler has had so many luminaries in the game singing his praises. With this one, you either get on or risk being run

"He's the closest thing to Jimmy Greaves I've seen," Denis aw, the former Manchester United and Scotland striker, said. "Possibly braver. There are many players who get the ball in the area and you don't fear any danger. He gets it and you think 'that's going in'."

His second goal, a looping shot from 20 yards, in last month's semi-final against Aston Villa, had Law purring. "A lot of players would have lashed at it but he almost

lobbed his shot and gave the goalkeeper no chance at all. That takes a lot of skill and even more confidence."

Roger Hunt, a member of the Liverpool dynasty of strikers, is equally effusive. "His reputation has meant he was bound to get more attention from defenders and be more closely marked. The fact that he's still getting goals in the face of that shows how good he is. His rate of scoring is terrific.

Strangely, his most productive season so far - 36 goals began with Fowler, 21, seemingly at odds with his renown and his manager, Roy Evans, The signing of the £8m Stan Collymore and the continued excellence of Rush meant he was substitute for the first two

of Liverpool's matches and had Collymore not been injured against Leeds, his partial banishment might have continued.

The moments of indiscipline that included a £1,000 fine from the FA and a severe admonishment from the club for an indiscreet interview in the magazine Loaded seemed to be coming thicker and faster.

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When he turned up at Melwood with a black eye administered by his team-mate. Neil Ruddock, a talent seemed to be heading for self-destruction. Thankfully, he has avoided pressing the button.

"I needed to grow up," Fowler conceded, "and I have done. It hurt like hell when I was left out at the start of the season but I kept my mouth shut and never said a word of complaint to the boss. I knew I'd get the chance, and when I de I'd do well. I've never lacked confidence in myself.

"If I ever got flash, my dad would soon put me down. He's watched every game I've played since I was II and he knows when to put me in place. Anyway, I'm not big-headed in the least. I like to think I'm the same Robbie Fowler now who joined Liverpool as a kid."

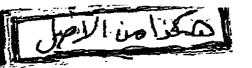
The same Fowler who has put four goals past Manchester United this season - Rush needed a decade to get his first against them - and who has struck at such a prolific rate that Collymore has had to adapt to become part provider for his younger partner.

United, certainly, are wary. "He has a lot of attributes," Brian McClair, who played against him at Anfield this season, said. "He scores goals with his left foot, right foot, headers. One of his best attributes is his movement. He's very intelligent and very quick. I wouldn't like to mark him."

Fortunately for McClair he is unlikely to have to. That will fall to either David May or Steve Bruce, and their success or otherwise in keeping Fowler quiet will have a great bearing on where the FA Cup goes today. 🚜

That is one trophy he will not want to wait six years to get his

HOUGHTON



sport

Truth is, of course, that one of football's great occasions can have an insidious effect on even the most experienced players

friendship we share, and before Manchester United secured another League championship, Alex Ferguson stated that the FA Cup final against Liverpool today has all the makings of a memorable en-

In the flair and imagination available to both teams, personality and pride, Ferguson sees the prospect of a "brilliant game".

The other night we were talking some grizzled veterans of my trade - about Ferguson's remarks and trying to recall a Cup final that fulfilled all expectations.

Difficult. Dramas certainly. And the romance of heroic contributions. Tales that have passed into the lore

Truth is of, course, that one of football's great occasions can have an insidious effect on even the most experienced players. "Go out and enjoy yourselves," sounds great in the dressing room but it does not always work when the team gets out

We had, in 1961, a prime example of what you have probably guessed I am going on about. Hav-ing raised the standard of English football immeasurably, Tottenham Hotspur won the Championship with three games to spare and were expected to outclass Leicester City in the final. They became the first club this century to complete the

Last week, in conversation of the game. But great matches? satisfaction. "That wasn't Tottenham out there," I recall Bill Nicholson saying, "We didn't do ourselves jus-

> Wearled by his efforts in the League, the great Dave Mackay proved to be a spent force. Danny Blanchflower could find no inspiration. Even with Leicester's rightback, Len Chalmers, a limping pas-senger after just 19 minutes, Tottenham's heroes could be found in

Tottenham also took part in one of the more thrilling modern finals, one that embarrassed popular prophecy. Few imagined, in 1987, that Coventry City had the beating of a team that included such virtuosos as Glenn Hoddle, Osvaldo double but not to their manager's Ardiles and Chris Waddle, but they

were unable to offer 25 per cent

of their capacity, as laid down

in League rules, because of police concerns about segrega-tion. The Charlton Athletic

Supporters' Club planned to

seek an injunction stopping the

game, but backed down yester-

day because they feared un-

certainty over the fixture might harm their team's preparations.

tary, Rick Everitt, said many

Charlton followers had bought

tickets independently, which

could lead to their ending up in

home sections of the ground.

He held Palace "fully respon-

sible for any problems that could arise", adding that the po-

lice had told him they had nei-

ther discussed the matter with

Palace, nor been aware of the

The other First Division semi-

final, at Filbert Street, pits a

drew one of the final eight games against Stoke, unbeaten

n seven. Yet in terms of resources, the contrast is stark.

Martin O'Neill splashed £2m on Neil Lennon and Steve Claridge,

whereas Lou Macari's sole out-

£150,000 to top up the swap

starts ~ has capped an upsurge in Stoke's fortunes. Macari,

whose limited options include

his son. Mike, rejected an invi-

tation to take part in a penalty

shoot-out before the FA Cup fi-

nal. "It's a long way to go for one

shot," he reasoned, "and we

need to concentrate on getting

finals, Crewe are appearing in

the play-offs for the fourth sea-

son in five. While they have yet

to emerge triumphant, their

opponents, Notts County, went

up two years running at Wem-bley. Psychological factors may

also influence the outcome be

tween Bradford City, who fin-

high, and Blackpool, who blew

out badly

ished the regular season on a

Neil Warnock, who presided

over both Notts County's playoff successes and led Hudder-

sfield up by the same route last

May, takes Plymouth to Colch-

ester for a sell-out Third Division affair. The only play-off virgins among the 12 clubs in-volved, Hereford and Darling-

ton, lock horns next to the

cattle market at Edgar Street.

In the Second Division semi-

to Wembley ourselves."

The former Norwich striker's

which secured Mike Sheron.

25 per cent stipulation.

However, the CASC secre-



tra time much to the bounding delight of their exuberant manager, John Sillett

Leicester were Manchester United's opponents in the 1963 final when Denis Law, back from a brief spell in Italy with Torino, gave proof

League programme in 19th place, only just avoiding relegation. Casting serious doubts on their chances in the final, Frank McGhee, then with the Daily Mirror, dubbed them:

thrillingly effective attackers.

In contrast to Saturday's situa-

tion, United had finished their

"The team you can't trust." Brilliant one week, exasperatingly poor the next. "Nobody knew what to expect from us," Bobby Charlton recalled. Wembley brought the best out of them. Law was outstanding - "out

of this world," the Brazil manager, João Saldanha, would later say of him - his goal and two from David Herd securing a 3-1 vitory. For unquenchable spirit, sheer

keeper, Jim Montogomery, few finals have raised more excitement than Sunderland's remarkable 1-0 victory in 1973 when their opponents, Leeds United were one of the most powerful clubs in

For some players, fame achieved in the Cup final proved ephemeral. Johnny Nicholls was a member of the West Bromwich Albion team that defeated Preston in the 1954 final, played twice for England that year, and then disappeared quick-ly from the game. Mostly forgotten Wembley heroes include Mike Trebilcock, who scored two of Everton's three goals when they overcame Sheffield Wednesday in 1966, and

the late Bobby Stokes, whose goal

that he was one of the game's most heroism in the case of their goal- for Southampton in 1976 brought about the suprising defeat of Manchester United.

Of all the tales about Cup finals, none supeals to me more than one nng a marvellously creative little Scottish international, Jimmy Logie, who was Arsenal's mainspring when they reached the 1950 final

against Liverpool.
When it came time for Arsenal to take the field, Logie could not be found, failing to show up until they were out of the dressing room tunnel. Logie had sneaked off to get the result of a dog race. "It got beat," Logie called to his team-mate, Alex Forbes, while the teams were being presented. Now there's Cup final coolness for you. Played splen-

Portents good for Palace coup

According to the sages and sta-tistics, the four sides striving for Fromotion to the Premiership are wasting their time turning up for the 10th running of the play-off stakes.

in the

Conventional wisdom maintains that a club not good enough to gain automatic promotion from the First Division need to spend between £10m and £20m to survive. Of the past six play-off winners, only Blackburn, to whom such sums are small change, have not suf-

fered instant relegation. None of which will prevent tomorrow's semi-final, first-leg matches being among the most fiercely contested of the season. Since the play-offs are in essence cup-ties, especially the one-off Wembley finals, it is unsurprising that League form tends to count for little.

Ignoring the first two years. when matters were confused by mixing one relegation-threat-

SUPERT METCALF

Barry Williams.

The Brigg Town back-room

staff that will take their team

from Humberside to Wembley for tomorrow's FA Carisberg

Vase final against Clitheroe in-

cludes a man who has played in

three Wembley cup finals - but

no one will enjoy the day more

than their general manager,

A Welshman who moved to

Brigg after the Second World

War when he married a local girl

and started a greengrocers'

business, Williams has been in-

volved with the club for half a

century. "He started out as a

committee member, he was chairman for about 30 years

and, when he stepped down two

years ago, we made him gener-

al manager," Brigg's secretary.

Bob Taylor, said. "He's at the

club every day, he looks after the

office but does so much more.

Right now [Thursday evening]

his team play at Wembley for the first time. A trip to the na-

tional stadium is no novelty.

however, for Brigg's assistant

manager, John Kaye. He played

Williams will be watching

he's running the bingo."

Phil Shaw looks at the clubs chasing promotion through the play-offs

to upward mobility, just eight of the 21 winners of the divisional finals have been the clubs who finished highest.

That may have been a worrying portent for Crystal Palace but for the fact that when they came third in 1989, they went on to win the final. Palace's hosts, Charlton, are also play-off veterans, having stayed up at Leeds' expense in the inaugural season.

As if a derby with so much at stake was not going to be tense enough, it will take place against a backdrop of bitterness. Resentment that built up when they shared Selhurst Park has been revived by a row over tickets for Wednesday's second leg.

Palace allocated their neighened side in with three aspiring bours only 2,900, claiming they

for West Bromwich Albion in

the 1967 and 1970 League Cup finals and, in between in 1968,

became the first man to be sub-

stituted in an FA Cup final.

A tough defender who also

played at Wembley for the

Football League representa-

tive side, Kaye's first club was

Scunthorpe United, where one

of his colleagues was Ralph

Clayton has been with Brigg

since the 1960s, and he brought

Kaye with him when he re-

turned to the club six years ago.

They're a couple of charac-

ters," Taylor said of Clayton and

Kave, "Kaye does the tactics,

Clayton is the motivator.

They've seen it all. They treat our lads like their kids."

Brigg of the Northern Coun-

ties East League, have two ex-

perienced former Football

League players in their side: the

striker Andy Flounders, once of

Hull City, and the former Blackburn defender. David

Mail. Clitheroe, their opponents from the North West

Counties League, can field sev-

eral players who were with

Colne Dynamoes when they

won the Vase in 1988.

Apart from a five-year break,

Clayton, Brigg's manager.

Williams to savour

Brigg's big day

Francis returns to St Andrew's

Trevor Francis has been confirmed as the new manager at Birmingham City. The former Queen's Park Rangers and Sheffield Wednesday manager has signed a three-year contract

with the First Division club. David Sullivan, the club's owner, said: "The boy wonder is back at Birmingham - someone with a passion and feeling for the club and an affinity with the city and supporters. It was a unanimous decision by the board of directors to appoint him and I hope he brings back the fans who watched him 20 years ago."

Francis, who started his career at St Andrew's, said: "I always felt I'd like to be a boss again, as long as it was with an ambitious club, who matched my desire to achieve things. Biringham fit the bill perfectly." Sullivan indicated that Francis would be given at least £2m to spend on new players.

Leicester side who won six and Bristol Rovers are not renewing the contract of their manager, John Ward. "I was sacked at a six-minute meeting with the vice-chairman, Geoff Dunford," said Ward, whose contract was due to run out at lay for cash-strapped Stoke was the end of next month. "I offered to sign a fresh contract, which had been put to me some time ago, but was told the board had now decided to look scoring streak - 15 goals in 22 elsewhere," Ward added.

Graham Rix has been drafted in to coach the England Under-21 squad for the Toulon tournament from 24 May to 3 June. Dave Sexton, the Under-21 manager, chose the Chelsea coach because Ray Wilkins, the Queen's Park Rangers play-er-manager, is unavailable.

Clive Berlin has taken over as chairman at relegated QPR following Paul Thompson's decision to put the club up for sale. Berlin, the club's football administration manager, is in his second spell at the club after previously being general manager. He is joined on the board by Alan Hedges, who is ap-pointed managing director. The future of the GM Vaux-

hall Conference champions, Stevenage Borough, will be clearer on Thursday when the Conference and the Football League have management committee meetings. Stevenage have issued writs against the Football League and the Third Division's bottom club, Torquay, in an attempt to win promotion - despite failing to meet stadium criteria by the 31 December deadline.



Graf beaten on clay by Hingis

Martina Hingis gave the world No 1, Steffi Graf, her first defeat on clay in almost two years yesterday when she beat the German in the quarter-finals of the Italian Open in Rome.

The 15-year-old Swiss sixth seed demonstrated why she is tipped as a future champion, recovering from the loss of the first set to win 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 for the best victory of her short career. "Tve just beaten the world

No 1," an ecstatic Hingis, ranked 20 in the world, said. "It feels great."

For Graf, unbeaten in tournaments this year and winner of to have ironed out the problems in the fourth game of the final three of last year's four grand she had shown in earlier rounds.

slams, it was the first defeat on. Three of the first four games clay since she lost to Mary Pierce in the French Open semi-finals two years ago. The 26-year-old German,

playing her first tournament of the season on clay, has struggled all week to adapt her game to the slow Foro Italico surface. A flow of unforced forehand errors was largely to blame for her defeat by Hingis.

"I've got to get physically in shape for Paris," Graf said, adding that she would not be ask for a wild-card entry for next week's Berlin Open. "I'll take some days off, try to relax a bit,"

In the first set Graf appeared

went to deuce but, at 2-2, the sis was not over as the German's German turned on the power, breaking serve twice to take the next four games and the set. At the start of the second set, however, Hingis started showing

voungest-ever quarter-finalist at the Australian Open in January. Mixing her game by coming up to the net and surprising her opponent with neat drop shots, Hingis broke Graf's service three times to level at one set each. Refusing to be overawed by an opponent 11 years her se-nior and due to set a record of

next week, Hingis broke serve

the talent which made her the

Graf broke back, but the crierratic groundstrokes gave Hingis three break-points in the eighth game. Two were saved but on the

third the German served a double fault to go 5-3 down. Five points later it was all over. "It was a great chance for me to beat her because she hasn't been playing that many tour-

naments lately," said Hingis, "but I haven't won anything, I ve just reached the semi-finals." Pete Sampras, the world No 1, has withdrawn from next nior and due to set a record of week's Italian Open following 332 total weeks as world No 1 the death of his coach and close friend Tim Gullikson. Michael Chang has also pulled out because of an injury.

MEN'S GERMAN O'PEN (Numburg) THE Former's (SA) IX R Wayuck (Neth) 6-4 6-3; S Bruguera (Sp) IX J Bunito (Sp) 6-2 7-6. Quanter-linels: R Carreten (Sp) IX 6-2 Schaller (Aut) 4-6 6-4 6-4; Waterladov (Rus) IX Buguera 6-2 7-6; M Roos (Chien or Fer-reira 3-6 6-4 6-4; A Correiya (Sp) IX M Lens-son (Swe) 8-1 6-4.

son (Swe) 5-1 6-4. Wholes (Rome) Third round: B Schett (Aut) 5-3 0-6 6-0; M Males-va (Bul) br / Wesner (Aut) 6-7 6-1 6-4; A Sanchez Vason (So) br B Fulso-Vella (Arg. 7-6 6-2 Quarter-finals: C Martinez (So) br Maleson 6-1 2-6 5-1; M Hinga (Sout) kr S Graf (Gen) 2-6 6-2 6-3; 15 price (Rom) bt Sanchez Vicano 6-4 6-3.

MEN'S GERMAN OPEN (HI

McRae slides to success

Britain's world champion, Colin McRae, made full use of his skill and survival instincts after a treacherous opening day of the Indonesia Raily, Asia's first round of the World Champ-

McRae drove cautiously on roads often made slippery by heavy rain to take the lead in his Subaru Impreza, though be finished just five seconds ahead of his Finnish title rival, Tommi Māķinen, in a Mitsubishi.

Phil McGuire staked his claim

for Olympic selection with two

penalty corner goals in Ipoh ves-

lerday as Britain restored some

faith in themselves with a 2-0

McRae, the winner of this event last year when it was not part of the World Championship, summed up the day: The conditions on the stages are comparable to trying to stand on a wet and slippery bar of soap. You've got to go flat out on the good bits, but when it's wet, you've got to slow right down."

Mäkinen had been living dangerously, spinning twice and putting a dent in one side of the car when he hit a bridge. Mākinen has won the first two rounds of the Championship.

Athletics Limford Christle, whose indoor season this year was cut short by a goin in-jury, will open his outdoor season at a minor meeting in Arnsberg, Germany,

Australian neles AFL Seventh round: St Kikin 18.10 (118) Collegeood 14.11 (95).

Backmainthosa
LEADRIG WORLD RANGENGS: Meet 1. Dong
long (Ch) 31D points; 2. J. Supremo (Indon)
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(Indon) 276; 5. Park Sung Woo (So Kor) 265;
6. A.B. Hustuma (Indon) 256; 7. A. Wiremata (Indon) 250; 8. R. Sidek (Maley) 246; 9. Lee Kuang,
Jin (S. Kor) 221; 10. Fung Permad (Tel) 21A.
Woment 1. Ye Zhaoyang (Ch) 357; 2. Beng Soo
Hyun (S. Kor) 331; 2. S. Susante (Indon) 317; 4.
Lim Kaoqing (Swe) 269; 5. C. Marun (Den) 249;
8. High Jingha (Ch) 242; 7. Yao (Ya) (Ch) 229;
8. Wing Chen (Ch) 226; 9. Zhang Ning (Ch) 226;
10. Him Ji Hyun (S. Kor) 223.

Basebau NATIONAL LEAGUE: St Louis 16 San Francis-co St Flords 6 Colorado 2: San Diego ? Pitts-burgh 1; Houston 11 Montreel 4. Eastern Division

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Basketbali NBA PLAY-OFFS: Western Conference semi-fizat: San Antonio 88 Utah 77 (best-of-sevan-series lavel 1-1).

The British and Commonwealth heavy-weight champion, Scott Welch, has been given a chance to win the European tigiven a chance to win the European Bot-tle. Welch will fight the European Bot-ing Union champton Zellko Mawowic, an English-trained Croatian who is based in Germany, in Newcastle on 8 June In Germany, in Newcastie on a June
PJ Gallagies will make the first defance
of his British super-featherweight champlonship against Charles Shephert. Gallagher, who won the vacant
super-featherweight title when he beat
Davey Michele, of Glasgow, at Crystal
Patace last month, must fight Shepherd
12 15 Contractiver.

SPORTING DIGEST The defender Greg Rioch, the 20-yearold son of Arsenal manager Bruce, has been given a free transfer by Second Division Peterborough United.

The Rangers manager, Waiter Smith, was named Bell's Manager of the Year in Scotland yesterday, but only by one vote from Cetic's Tommy Burns. Rangers won the Scottish Premier Division title for the eighth successive year and are in the Tennents Scottish Cup Final against Hearts on 18 May.

Hearts on 18 May. Spenish League authorities plan to re-duce the number of non-European Union players allowed in teems in the wake of the Bosman ruling which outlaws re-strictions on EU players. Under the scheme, teems will be permitted three non-EU players on the field at any one time next season, but this will be pro-gressively reduced to two the following year and one in the 1998/99 season. er and one in the 1998/99 season. The European Cup finalists Juventus have agreed to stay at Turin's Della Alpi sta-dium for another season after threat-ening to quit and move to Bologna. Officials from Juventus and their city rivals Torino, who have been relegated to Serie B next season, met city authorities for seven hours to work out a deal which allows the two clubs to control advertising at the stadium and to pay a reduced yearly rent.

Jo Bonfree, the Dutchman who left his job as coach of Nigeria last month af-ter a dispute with the African country's football association, has returned to take up his post. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Divi-sion: Queen's Park Rangers O Charlton 2; Wes-ford 1 Enginen 3. THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: lets League Carton Trooby final: Barsted Americ 1 Can-sey island 2, Interruptional Intendity (Medicag-box 2: Sweden (Darbon 51, Ingesson 85) 2

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Aralgat (Swe) 70 71: P Golding 69 72: G Rebpt 71
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Grey S Silvent (Labous, Flangiano) (Swe)
78 71; M Wishe; S Aspieloy (Aud); W Line; J
Bonest Li Nelson; S Verplant; J Fuyle S Loucry; S Elington (Aua); C Paser M Red. 68 C
Pyrnor; M Wishe; S Aspieloy (Aud); W Line; J
Bonest Li Nelson; S Verplant; J Fuyle S Loucry; S Elington (Mail; C Paser, M Red. 68 C
Pyrnor; M W; D Frox (Sw); E Es (Sw).
The Laddes Golf (Linhon Vesterday BriNounced that the Westabay British Open

hery N Int; D Frost SAN; E Es (SA).
The Ladies Golf Union yesterday announced that the Westabus British Open will no longer be the sole preserve of Woburn, From 1997, the event will rotate between four different courses. Woburn will host this year's tournament, followed by Sunningdale in 1997, Royal Lyttem and St Annes the following year, Woburn in 1999 and Royal Birkdale in the year 2000.

PING LEADERSOATO RAWANGS: 1, L Davies PRIOR LEADERBOARD RANKINGS: 3. L. Davies (Eng. 355.54pt; 2 A Sovenstam (Swe) 345.65; 8. I Neumann (Swe) 355.18; 4 K. Robbats (US. 244.19; 8 M Madion (US.) 218.03; 6 B Daviel (US.) 201.07; 7 P Steehen (US.) 182.81; 8 K. Webb (Aws) 175.56; 8 D Papper (US.) 183.90;

10 M McGarn (US) 158.36. Selected: 16 A Nacholas (Erg) 124.25; 25 I, Paixtough (Eng) 85.50; 43.7 P Wingth (Soo) 88.16; 50 C Pierce (Erg) 48.04; 54 I. Hachney (Eng) 48.80; 59 C Hall (Eng) 44.25; 72 I Johnson (Eng) 38.98; 83 J Fottes (Sco) 32.24; 82 K Magnel (Soo) 32.18; 98 H Waddworth (Ma) 25.85;

AZZAN SHAH CUP Opob, Medeyela): Australe 5 Inde 3; Malayes 1 South Kose 0; Great Britan 2 Netherlands 0. Final pool planelage: 1 Aus-trale Spec; 2 Koses 7; 3 Malayels 5; 4 Greet Britain 4; 5 Netherlands 3; 6 India 2.

Ice hockey NRIL, STANEY CUP PLAY-OFFS: Eastern Con-terence semi-final: Products 4 New York 1 (Pits-burgh lead best-of-serve-series 3-10; Florida 4 Philadelphie 3 (or) (Series Issel 2-2).

Motorcycling

Railying BIDONESIAN RALLY (Mor McRae (GB, Subaru Improz 2 T Mainten (Fri, Massubis

Mark Presson, the 29-year-old Halifax Winger, has joined First Division Widnes rugby union and Wigan player will make his debut against Huddersfield tomorrow.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERSHIP: St George 2 Rugby Union SUPER-12 TOURNAMENT (Sy

ier Leve

Vicano 6-4 6-3.

US CLAY COURT CHAMPIONISHEP (Planetument IS Reprise of Second rounds J. Sportment (Swe) bit M. Gussifsson (Swe) 7-6 1-8 7-5; R. Reneberg (US) bit J. Van Herck (Beh 6-4 6-1; J. Frans (Arg) bit K. Alarm (Mor) 6-0 6-4; J. Stottenberg (Aus) bit M. Nadad (Col) 6-4 6-2.

LTA. SPRING SATELLITE (Lee-on-Solent) Men's quarter-finalist R. Nackish (Ger) bit N. West (CB) 7-8-6-0; A. Drupus (Fr) bit M. Gooder (Aus) 6-2 6-3; J. Delgood (EB) to T. Droper (EB) 6-2 6-1; F. Dorndo (Un) bit P. Kildeny (Aus) 6-6 6-4. Women's semi-finalist J. Ward (CB) bit M. Lamarre (Fr) 7-5 3-6 7-8; J. Choudhury (CS) bit M. Maller (EB) 5-4 4-2 ret. TODAY'S NUMBER

200

The price, in US dollars, of a place in the heavens for the Fiorentina striker, Gabriel Batistuta. A group of the Italian club's fans have paid for a star to be named after the Argentinian player, who said: "it's an extraordinary idea, I'll be remembered forever."

fory in a competitive match. Again, it was a British goal-

win against a young Dutch side. Britain will play the hosts, Malaysia, tomorrow for the bronze medal, writes Bill Colvill. our way to a well-deserved vic-

The British coach, David and the full-back Jon Wyatt sus-Whitaker, said: "We battled pended for a bad tackle.

Britain restore some faith

who kept his side in the game during the early Dutch assault before Britain took the lead two minutes from the interval with their fourth penalty corner.

The Dutch started the second half with another onslaught, and British fortunes were not looking good, with their acting captain, Rob Thompson, having to leave the pitch with an injury

As the game became ill-tempered, it was with relief that McGuire shot home his second keeper, this time Simon Mason, goal to secure the play-off place.

The former West Harn striker Steve Jones has completed a move back to Upton Park after a two-year spell at Boumemouth in a £200,000 deal, which seas the striker Mark Watson go-

macred Jonathan Martin, head of | | tall us free on 0500 246 246.

10 no - 0

If anyone can Canon can

In Monday's 20-page sports section

Gooch looks to the future



T'll be looking for olayers with character. There is no better place for judging that than from 22 yards, where you can see what's going on in a bowler's head by looking into his

As he winds down a distinguished career, Graham Gooch (above) talks to Derek Pringle about his latest challenge as a Test selector and what life might hold should he decide to retire at the end of the season.

Down Wembley Way...

Glerm Moore and Ken Jones give their verdict on today's FA Cup final and Mike Rowbottom on another attraction at Wembley's this weekend tomorrow's Pub Cup final

and around the world

Thanks to television, the FA Cup final is a truly global event. How did the rest of the world watch Everpool against Manchester United?

Extensive coverage of all the major sporting action Sports betting
Book of the week
...and Greg Wood has The Final Word

In tomorrow's Independent on Sunday



"Though many --more do not, some players take instantly to the international stage overcoming the nerves, tuning in to the pace, daring to attempt things with the ball; just looking like they belong. Darren Anderton is some player...One can

exobjections up North; more special treatment for another Spurs player in the Venables regime it is to ignore; though, that Alex Ferguson has tried to buy him for Manchester United and, more important, that he is a player with a wide range of attacking skills, his versatility making him an attractive prospect for a major championship campaign."

ian Ridley spotlights the fottenham player's timely return to the international stage

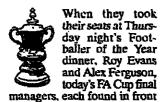
Stan Hey and Norman Fox at the FA Cup final

Simon O'Hagan on Surrey's Alistair Brown and the new cricketing art of the pinch hitter Andrew Baker on the remarkable recovery from illness of a leading British squash player

Liverpool midfield holds key

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent



When they took their seats at Thursday night's Foot-Trafford and defeating them comprehensively at Antield. baller of the Year dinner, Roy Evans and Alex Ferguson, today's FA Cup final

of them a set of Chinese healthy bails". A gift from Sky, they are supposed to be rotated in the hands to beat stress. ed usually beat them. "We were never afraid," re-This morning, as the pair pack their bags for Wembley, they may feel tempted to take the balls with them. It could be

a very stressful day. The only thing that can be predicted with any degree of certainty about today's final between Liverpool and Man-chester United is that it will be tight. Even the bookmakers cannot decide the more likely

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ACROSS

Head of conspiracy to go

down - man getting con-

One chancing one's arm

about love - that's fool-

10 Religious text is etched in

11 It never collapsed and died when turned over (8)

12 Experts with canvas pre-

pare the sail for a storm

15 Steam-train promoter (6)

18 NEW presented as WEN

in part of test? (5-5.4)

20 Bell-ringer getting ner-

THE FRANKLIN SCRAMBLE

building power base? (6)

yous response, according

16 Legislator in Ireland

fined (8)

shness (6)

tree (5)

(3-11)

No. 2984. Saturday 11 May

Manchester United ought to be favourites. They are the league champions and are ap-pearing in their third successive final. But Liverpool have twice mastered them this year, gain-ing the better of a draw at Old

This is the opposite of how things used to be. When Ferguson arrived at Old Trafford nearly 10 years ago Liverpool were the champions and Unit-

called Ferguson. "We were the one team they knew would try and beat them and it used to unsettle them. The big motivation for United was that Liverpool were the dominant team in English football, so beating them was the most important

thing of all.
"Now it is reversed. We go there and the volume of support

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Ask the Franklin Bookman French Professor.

us, you would think it was VE Day. But that is the position I wanted this club to be in - that we go over there and they are desperate to beat us."

Final preparations: The pitch at Wembley Stadium gets a last-minute trim before today's match between Liverpool and Manchester United

The last point does not quite square with Ferguson's now customary reaction when teams, be it Liverpool, Leeds or West Ham, lift themselves against United, but it is probably a more accurate reflection of his true

Today's game promises to be the best final for at least five ars - since Tottenham beat Nottingham Forest and Gazza crocked his knee. Both sides are attractive to watch and bave a clutch of exceptionally gifted at-tacking players. A match-win-ner? Take your pick from Robbie Fowler, Stan Collymore and Steve McManaman or Eric Cantona, Ryan Giggs and Andy Cole - if he plays?

Cole's is just one of several

Franklin.

Friday's Solution

Any fool will trap Conser-

Watch Herb getting calm,

turned up with a protec-

ropean entry (6)

secure close vote (10) 14 Dead alien creature

tive coat? (9)
17 Education's not first in

pay (8) 18 Cheers missile landing on island – this island? (6)

19 Monopolise the mind of

21 Going uphill, achieved

... gear that's unusual fashion (4)

second gear... (4)

lary (6)

officer in charge - pot

found on last of constabu-

Teaching physical educa-tion had excited leader of 13 Dispensed free drink to

vative repeatedly over Eu-

Middlesbrough but Paul Scholes has looked sharper all season. Then there is his warhorse, Steve Bruce, who pulled up lame in last year's final - does he risk him again, or pick David May, outstanding in the last two matches? Which Neville, Phil or Gary? And David Beckham - or Lee

Sharpe?
While Ferguson will not name his team until 2pm today, Evans announced his yesterday. There were no surprises, Phil Babb and Jamie Redknapp being preferred to Neil Ruddock and Michael Thomas.

Ferguson is also trying to plot the best way to defeat a Liverpool playing style which has given United problems. These have come when Liverpool have the ball, Ferguson said. "We are alright when we have it". The difficulty, as several sides have found, is getting the against us is incredible. The way dilemmas for Ferguson. He ball. "It is the number of play-mani. Liverpool have not beat-

the full-backs push on. We will need to work hard to get into these players earlier." A busy afternoon, then, for Roy Keane and Nicky Butt. Their impact on the passing of Redknapp and John Barnes may be just as important as the forwards' finish-

Then there is Ian Rush, the cup's leading scorer, who will probably be playing his last game for Liverpool. Last time he was on the bench for this tie he came off it to score twice as Liverpool beat Everton in 1989. "If I get on for long enough I'm sure I'll score against them," he said yesterday.

Naturally both sides are looking for omens. While Liverpool are staying in the same hotel as they did when winning in 1992 United have opted for the "lucky suit", choosing the same designer, Cecil Gee, as in 1994. Liverpool are dressed by Ar-

he tried to persuade the FA to have penalties today. In 1977 it was settled by Jimmy Greenhoff's chest. As far as Venables is concerned, today's winner can come off the referee's bac they celebrated when they beat scored with his first touch at ers they have in midfield when en United in seven cup matches side as long as there is one.

Routes to the final LIVERPOOL

since 1921, including the 1977

All this is, of course, stuff and

nonsense. At 3pm today it will

come down to the individuals and nothing else. There is ob-

viously a gap because that is what the league table says,"

Evans said. "I think on our day

we are as good as anybody but,

while our players have matured

individually, perhaps they have not quite matured as a team."

1992, added: "All I can fe-

member is actually winning it. On the day nothing else really

wins it. A Thursday replay

would so hamper Terry Venables

It is important that someone

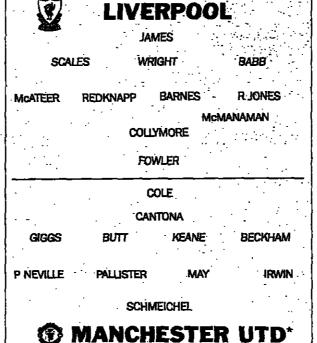
Evans, who was one of

raeme Souness's assistants in

3rd bt Rochdale (h) 7-0 Scorers: Collymore 3, Fowler, Rush, McAteur of 4rd bt Shrewsbury (a) 4-0 5rd bt Charlton (h) 6rd bt bt Leeds (h)* 3-0 Scorers: McManaman 2, Fowle * Replay after 0-0 at Elfand Road SF bt Aston Villa Scorers: Fowler 2, McAteer at Old Trafford

MANCHESTER UNITED

3rd v Sunderland (a)* 2-1 Scorers: Cole, Scholes * Replay after 2-2 at Old Trafford (scorers: Cantona, Suit) 4rd bt Reading (a) 3-0 5rd bt Man City (h) 2-1 Scorers: Cantona (ben), Sharpi 6rd bt Southampton (h) 2-0 reis: Cantona, Sharpe SF bt Chelsea Scorers: Cole, Beckhar at Villa Park



SFA probes Stubbs deal

Celtic yesterday unveiled Alan Stubbs as their centre-half of the future, but his £3.5m move from Bolton was almost immediately placed in doubt when the Scottish Football Association announced there would be an investigation into the deal because of the involvement of unlicenced agents.

The problem may arise because of the involvement of Neil and Ian Rioch - brothers of the Arsenal manager, Bruce. They have yet to pay the £100,000 bond to gain a licence to hantile transfers. That has caused a storm in the agent's community, many of whom are upset to have paid the cash while oth-

A complaint was lodged with the SFA, which immediately started a full investigation on behalf of Fifa. If Celtic or Stubbs

ers have not.

are found guilty, the penalties could be severe. The maximum fine for a player is £30,000 with a possible year's suspension while the club can be banned from all competitions for a season.

Neil Rioch claimed last night that no wrong-doing had oc-curred and hoped to be cleared by the inquiry. He said: "I think we are OK. We are licensed under Phil Morrison [a licensed agent] and we would not have done it otherwise or jeopardised Alan's future."

However, the international agents' organisation, Iafa, is lobbying for an example to be made of a big club and a top player. Clare Tomlinson, of the Football Association, said yesterday: "The Riochs are not li-There was an censed. application a year ago, but they never followed it up.

Bruce Rioch has been trailing Stubbs for most of the season and is thought to be

frustrated at Arsenal's inability to make the signing. However, from the club's point of view, the alleged involvement of the manager's brothers in the transfer, and subsequent investigation, might be a cause of substantial embarrassment.

Stubbs is thought to have favoured a move to Arsenal, and even when he headed to Glasgow on Tuesday there was time for Arsenal to rescue the move, but key figures were abroad and Rioch learned Stubbs had chosen Celtic too late to prevent it.

Following the George Graham affair, Arsenal have opted to greatly reduce their manage er's role in transfers, with David Dein, the vice-chairman, taking an active role. Rioch has found this frustrating and while his contract remains unsigned an air of doubt will continue to hover over north London.

Francis for the Blues, page 27 Euro 96 ticket probe, page 3

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The first correct solution to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday win a Franklin Book man French Professor worth £100. Answers and the winner's name will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword. P. O. Rox 4018. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London £14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winner was Margaret Rowley of Comber, Co. Down.

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22 One has rodent back

pulled tight? (6)

I It's nonsense to applaud

Woman, fashionable.

dropped in middle of

King that is against city

Gilbert, say, unpleasantly

bitter in inclination (10)

Make the loagest word you can from CEFEFENTI Yesterday's Scramble, DARTBOARD

Medway (6)

Continent - it's to the

North, I initially assumed

upcoming role (8)

The way a foot support is

24

The second secon

.

84.4